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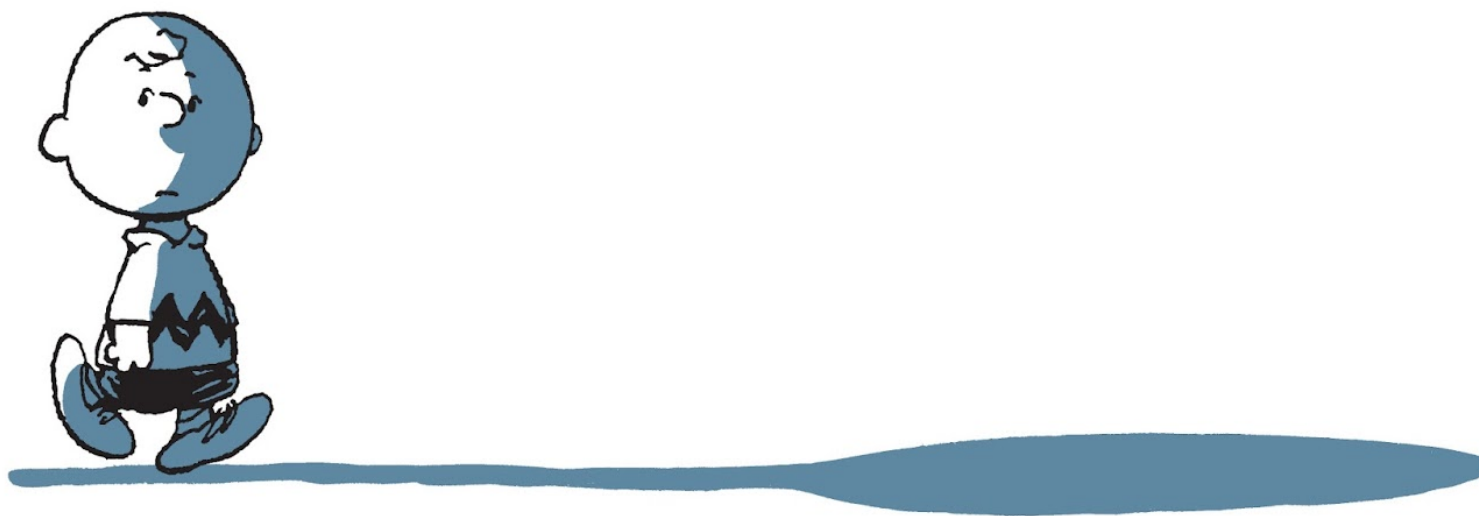
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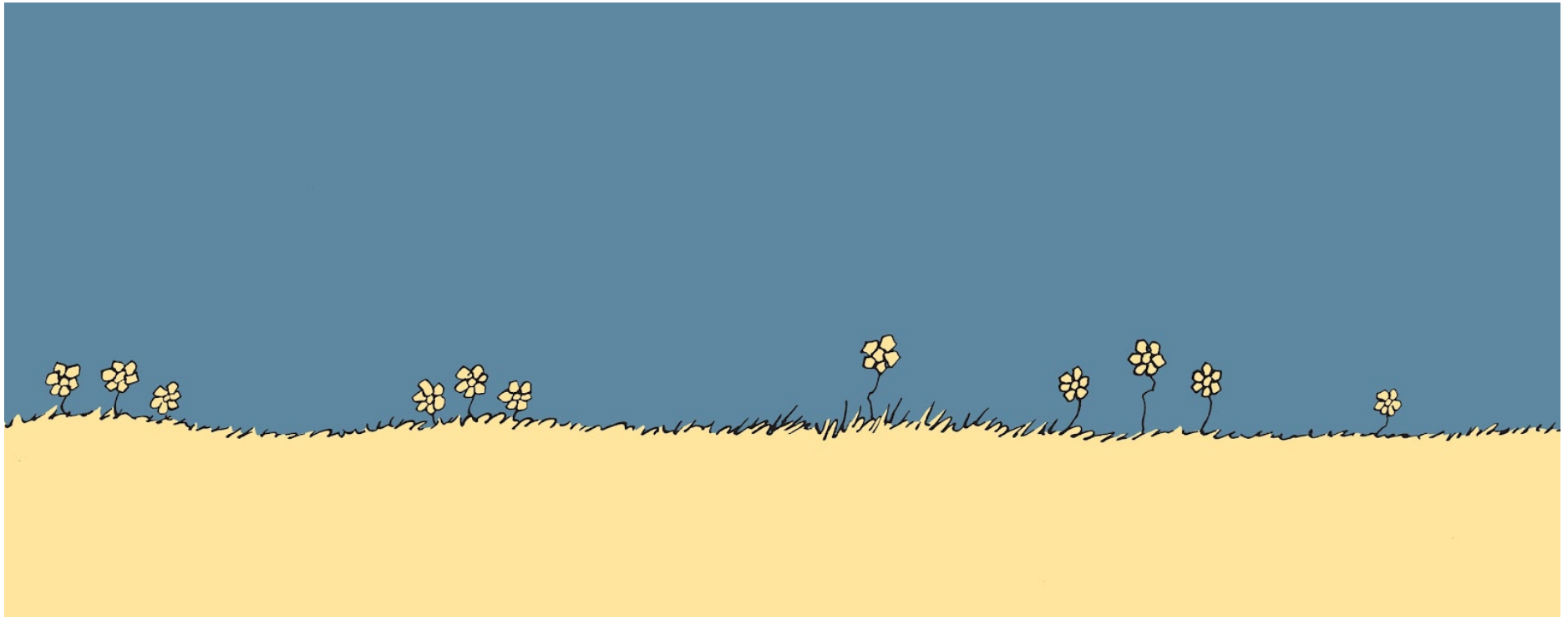
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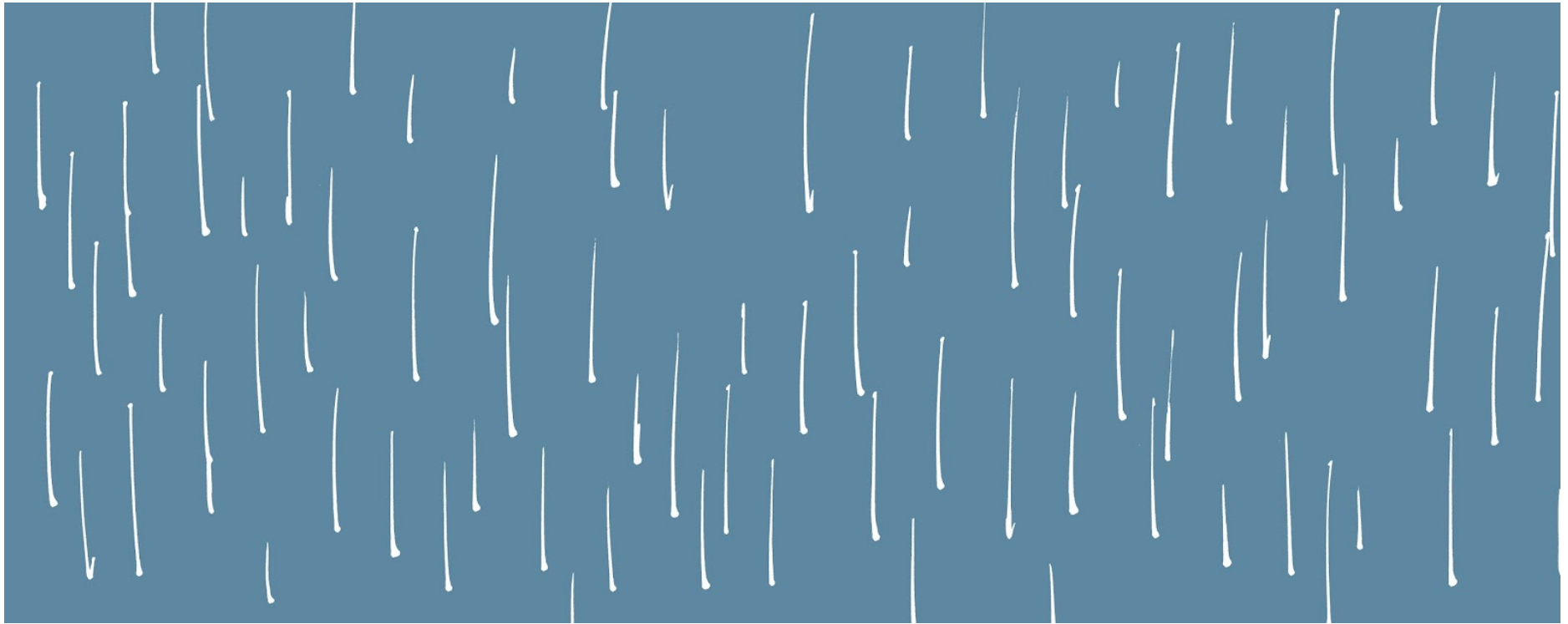
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THE COMPLETE PEANUTS

by Charles M. Schulz

published by

Fantagraphics Books

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CHARLES M. SCHULZ

THE COMPLETE PEANUTS

1999 TO 2000

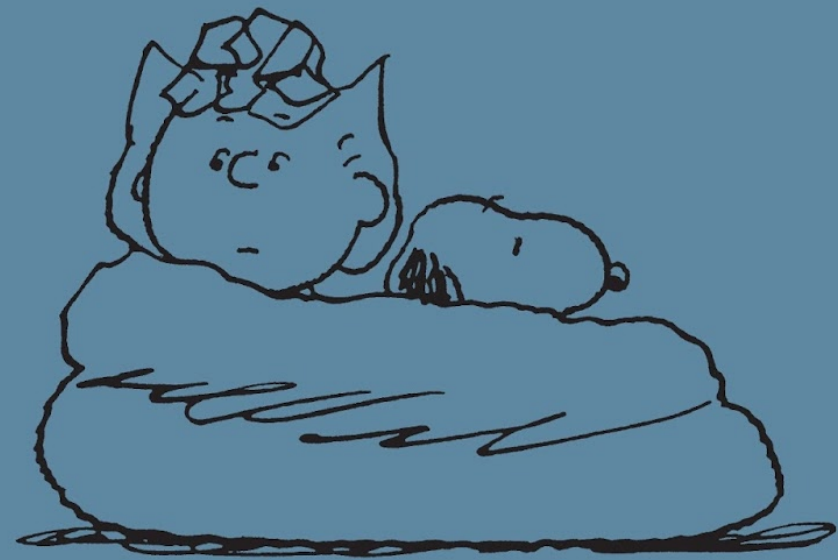


"YES, MA'AM...I'D LIKE TO
RETURN SOMETHING I
BOUGHT HERE.. "

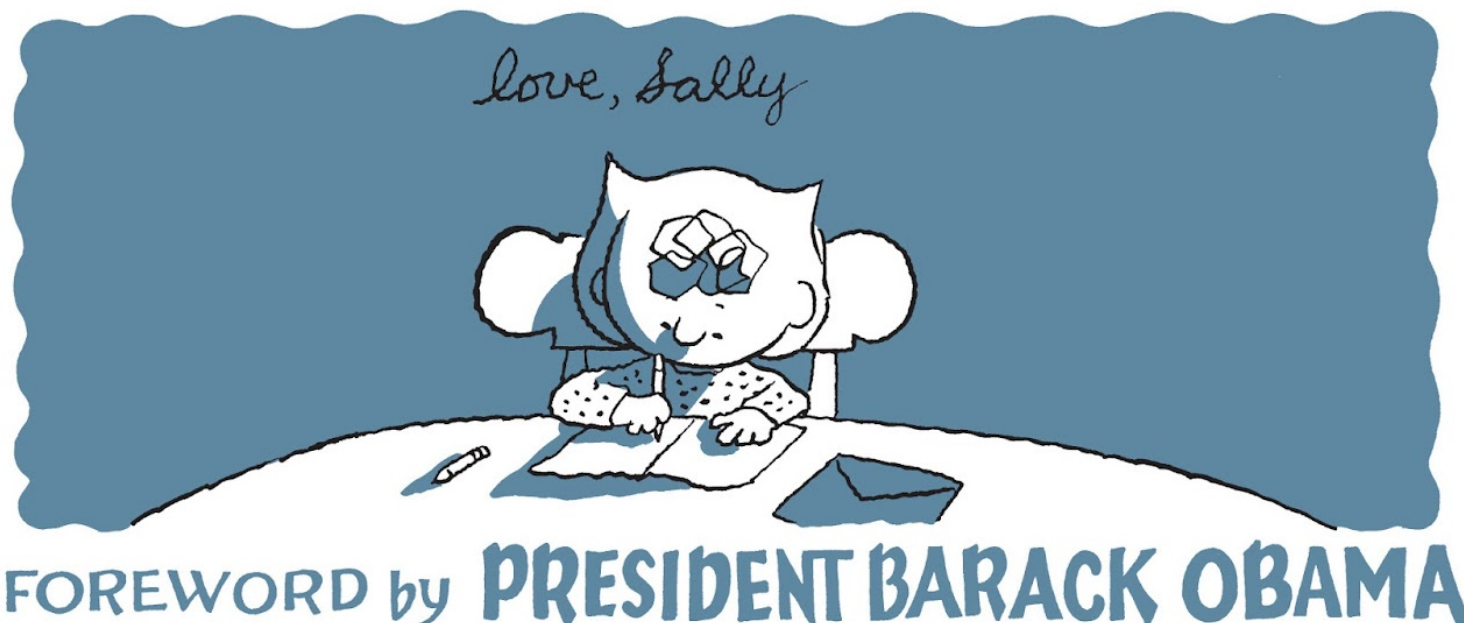
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Charles M. Schulz in his home studio at the drawing board, Santa Rosa, California, mid-1990s: courtesy of the Charles M. Schulz Museum.



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Like millions of Americans, I grew up with *Peanuts*. But I never outgrew it.

Wherever I lived, wherever I traveled, I could find those three or four panels in the paper each morning. And Charlie, Snoopy, Linus, Lucy, Franklin, and the gang brought childhood rushing back.

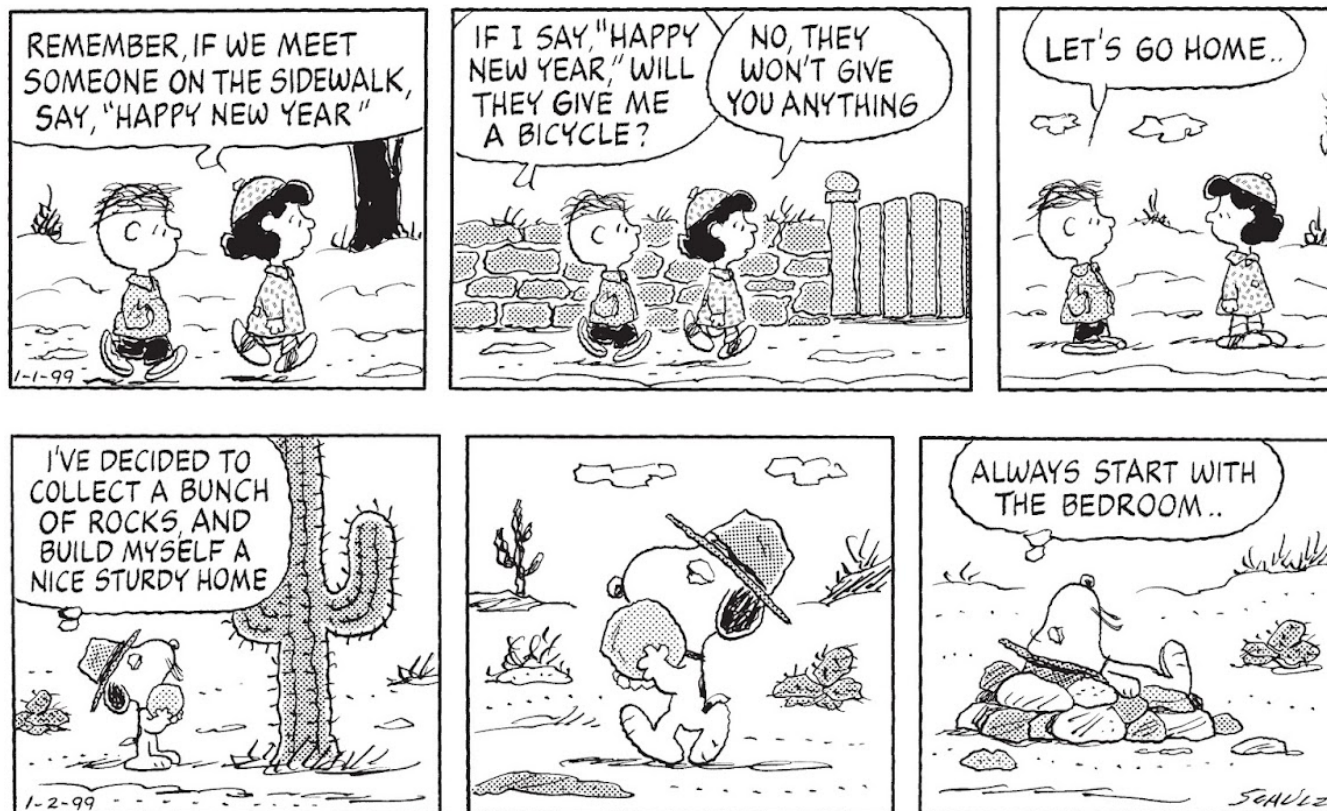
That's what made Charles Schulz so brilliant — he treated childhood with all the poignant and tender complexity it deserves. He gave voice to all its joys and anxieties — a spectrum of emotions that run from the start of a new baseball season to the anguished “AUGH” that comes with losing the big game. He explored the emotions that we too often forget kids feel until we're reminded that we once

felt them ourselves. Hope. Doubt. The exquisite pain of unrequited love. The self-exploration of what it means to be different. The comfortable knowledge that it's all going to be OK — even if Lucy's advice isn't very good.

For decades, *Peanuts* was our own daily security blanket. That's what makes *Peanuts* an American treasure.

In his final strip, Charles Schulz wondered how he could ever forget the *Peanuts* gang. Thanks to this groundbreaking series of books collecting all of Charles Schulz's *Peanuts* strips, the rest of us never will — and we can share our love for the gang with our children and grandchildren for decades to come.

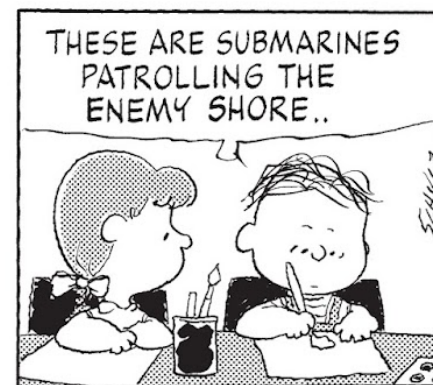
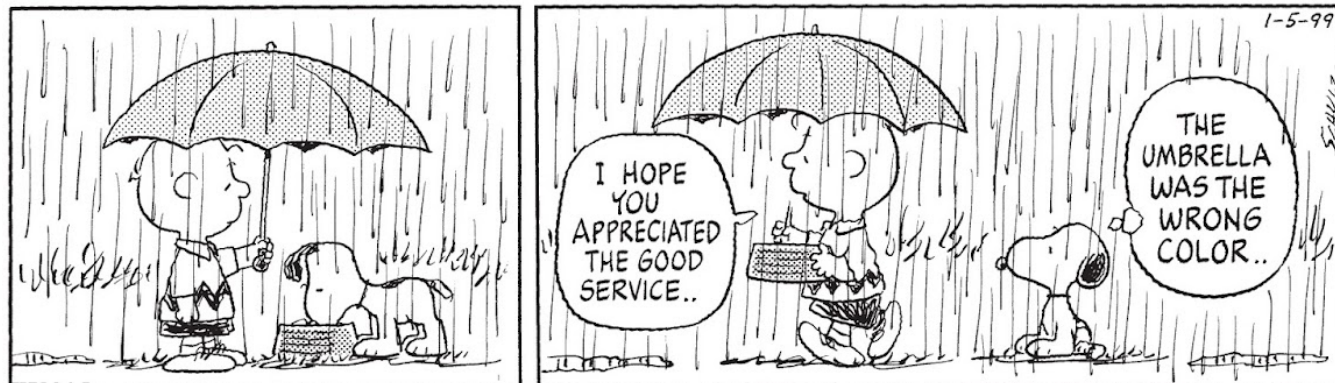




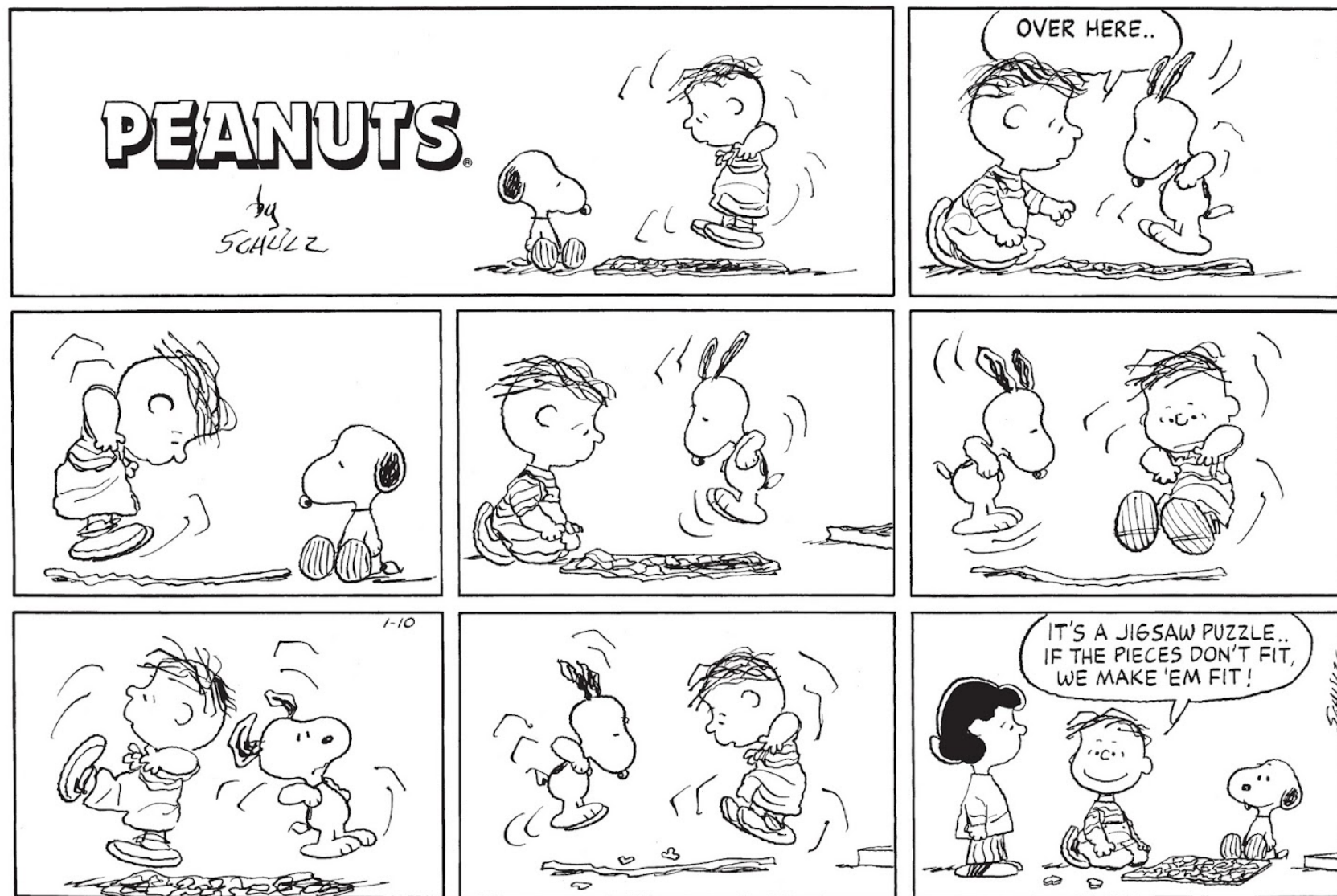
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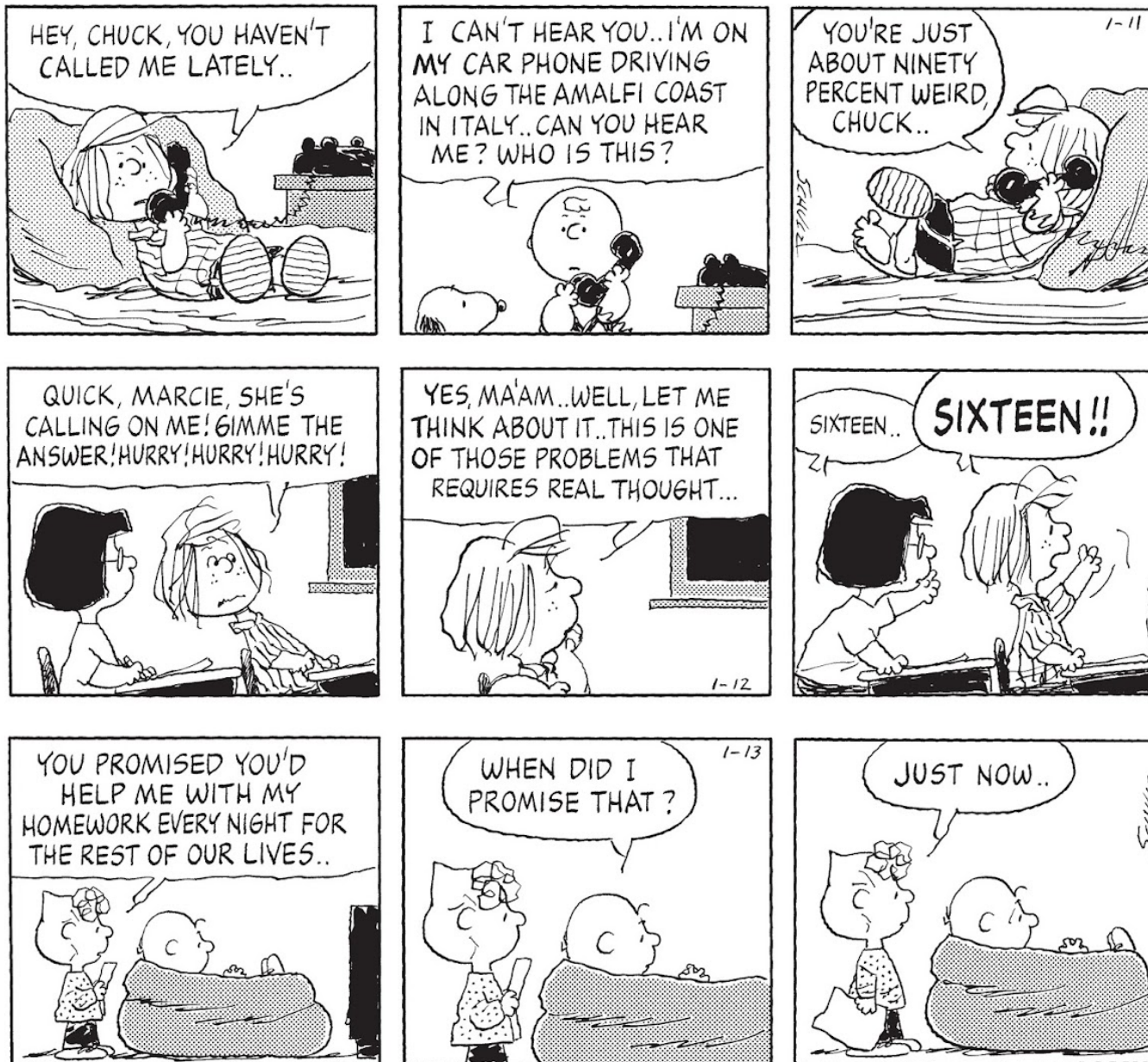
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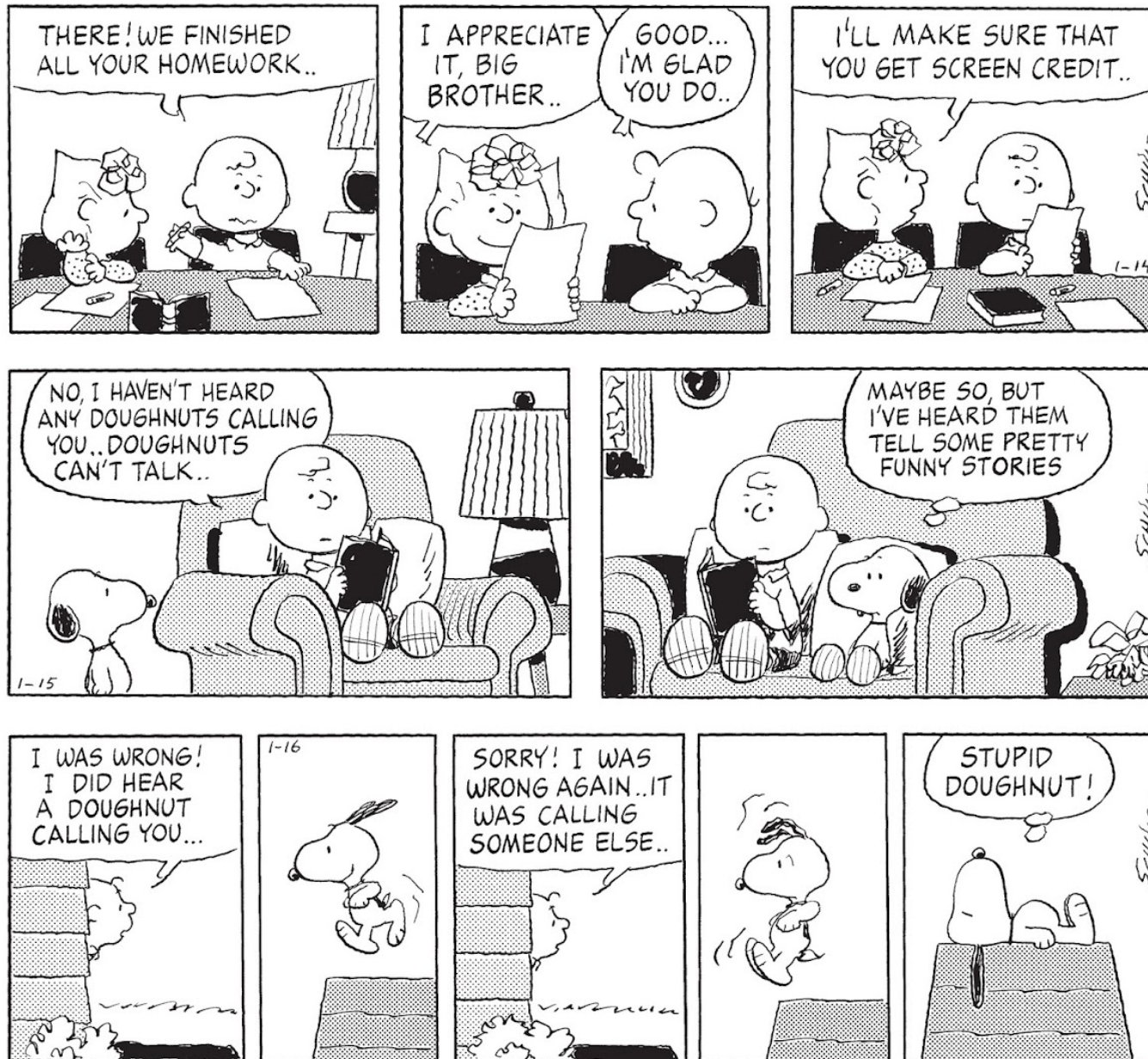


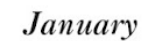


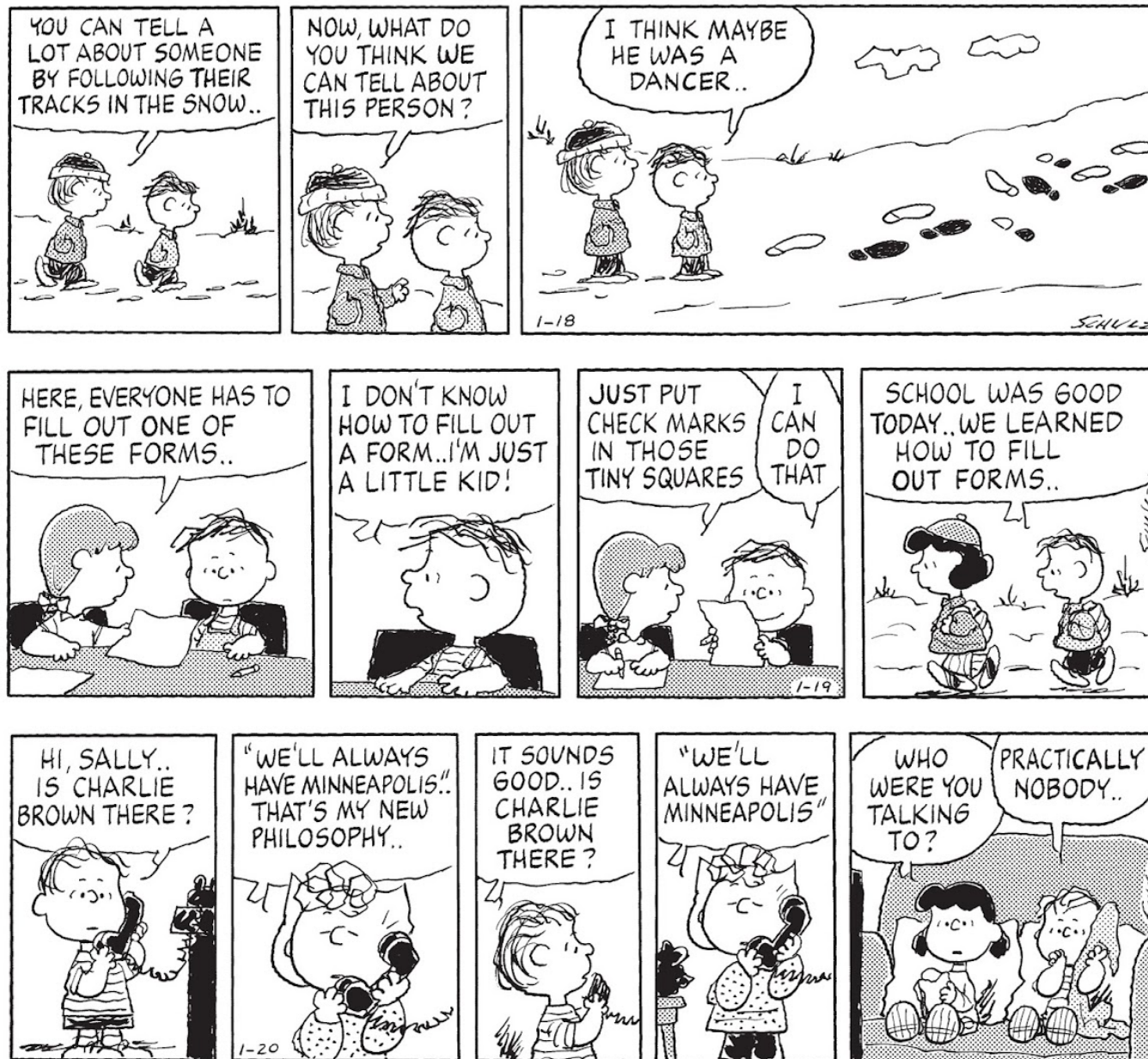


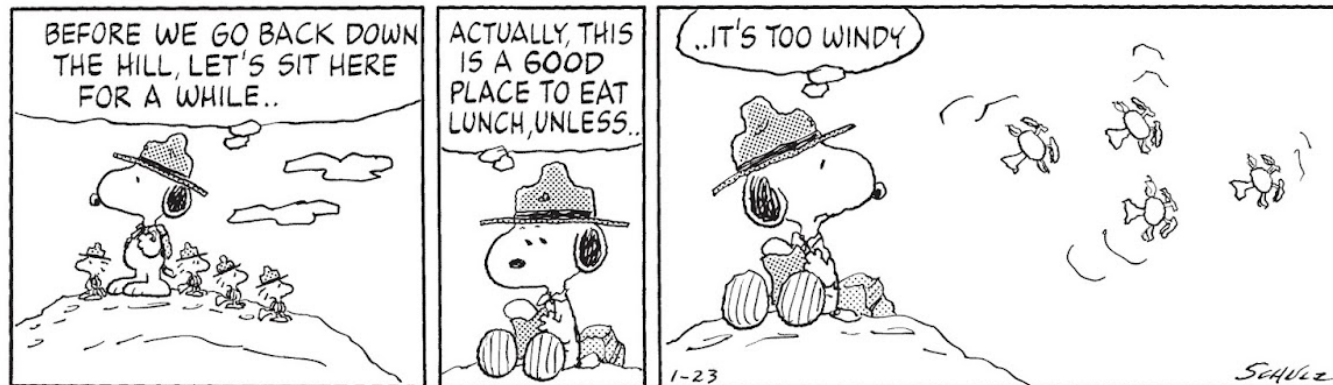
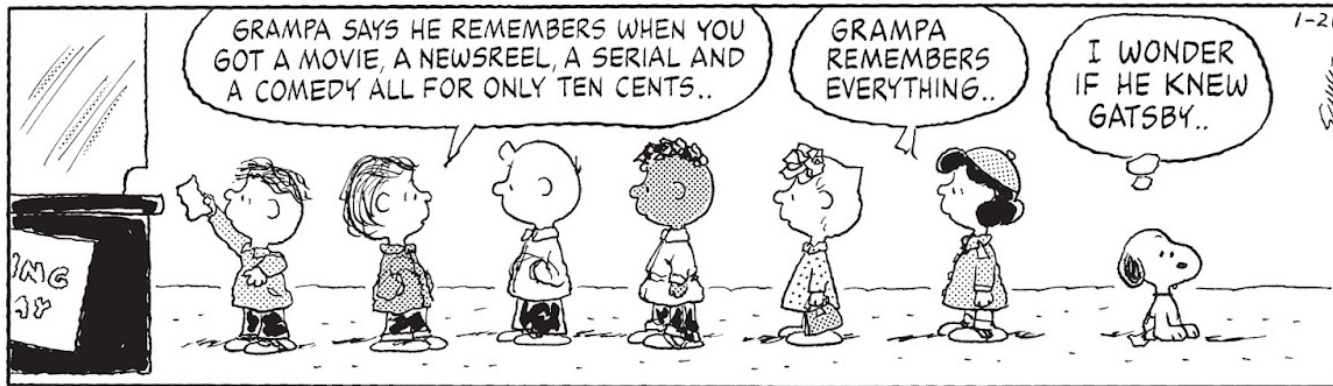


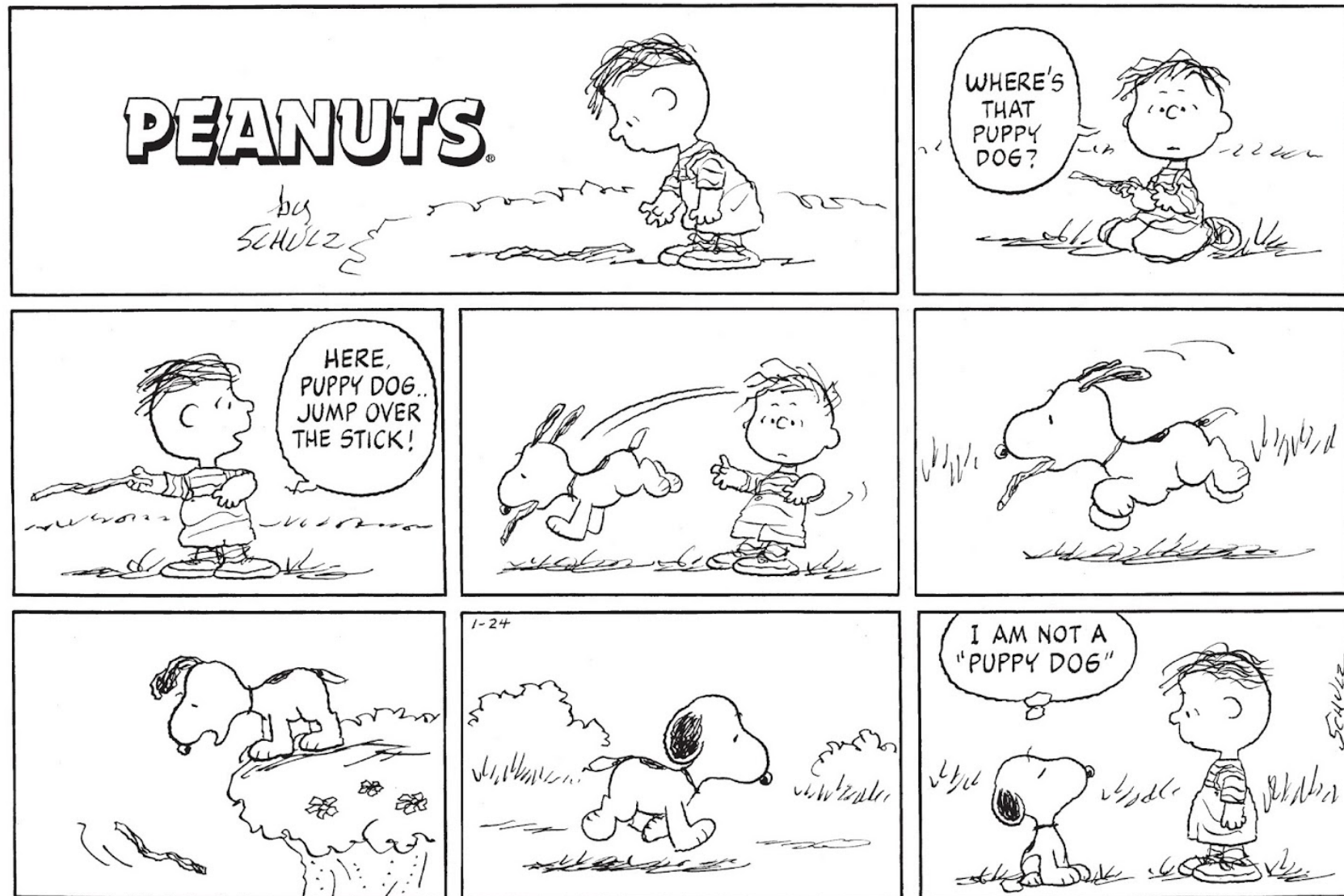




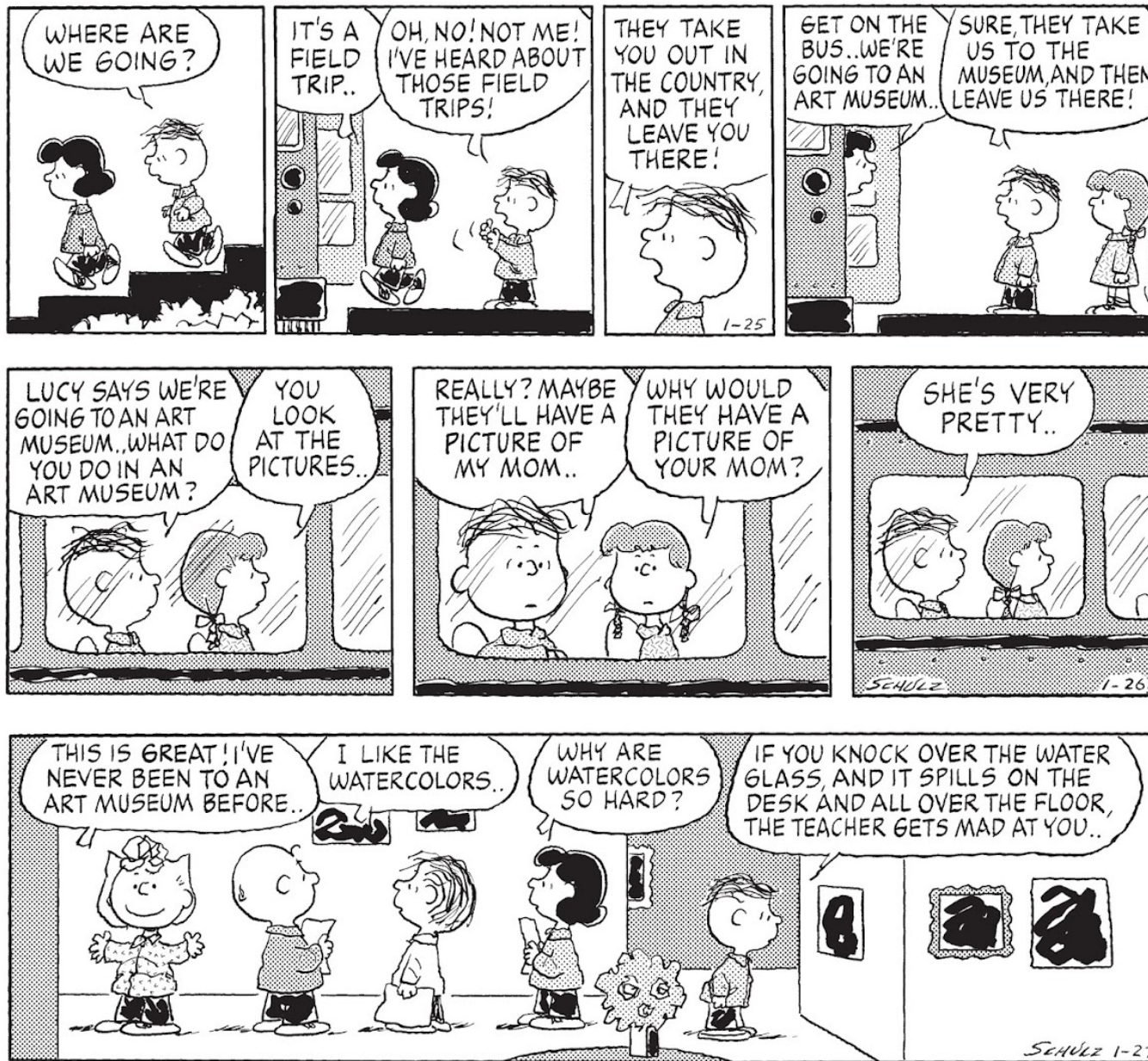


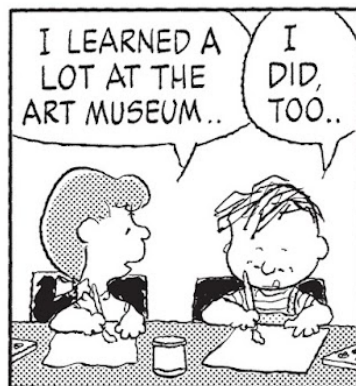
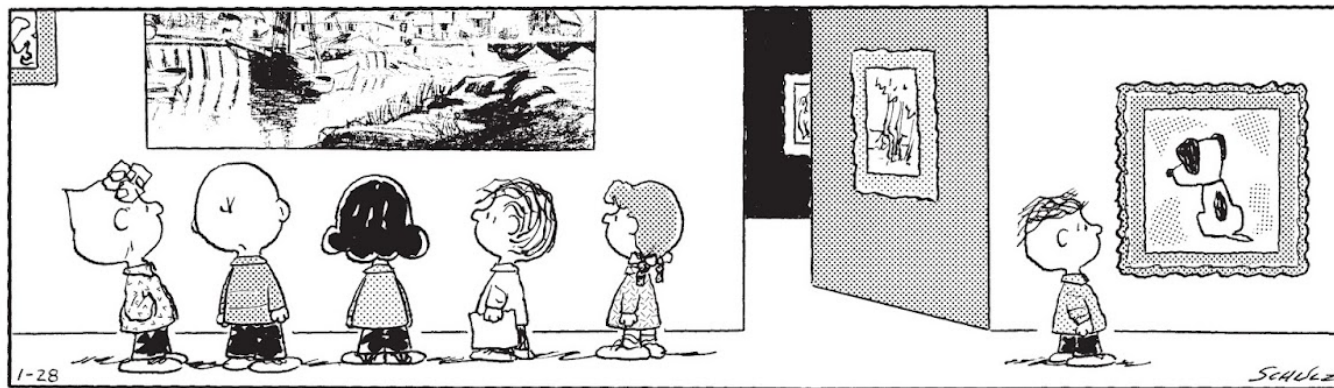


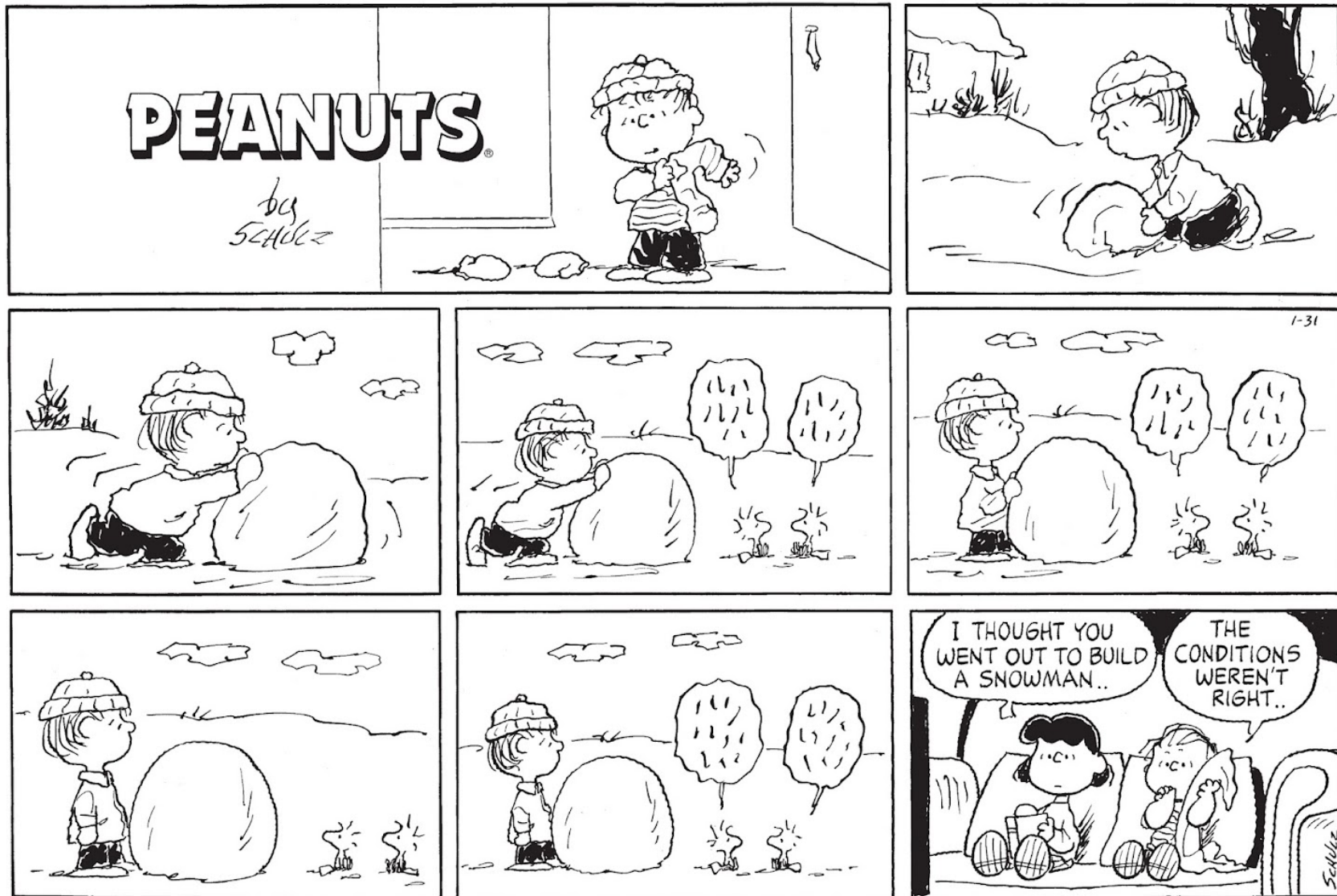


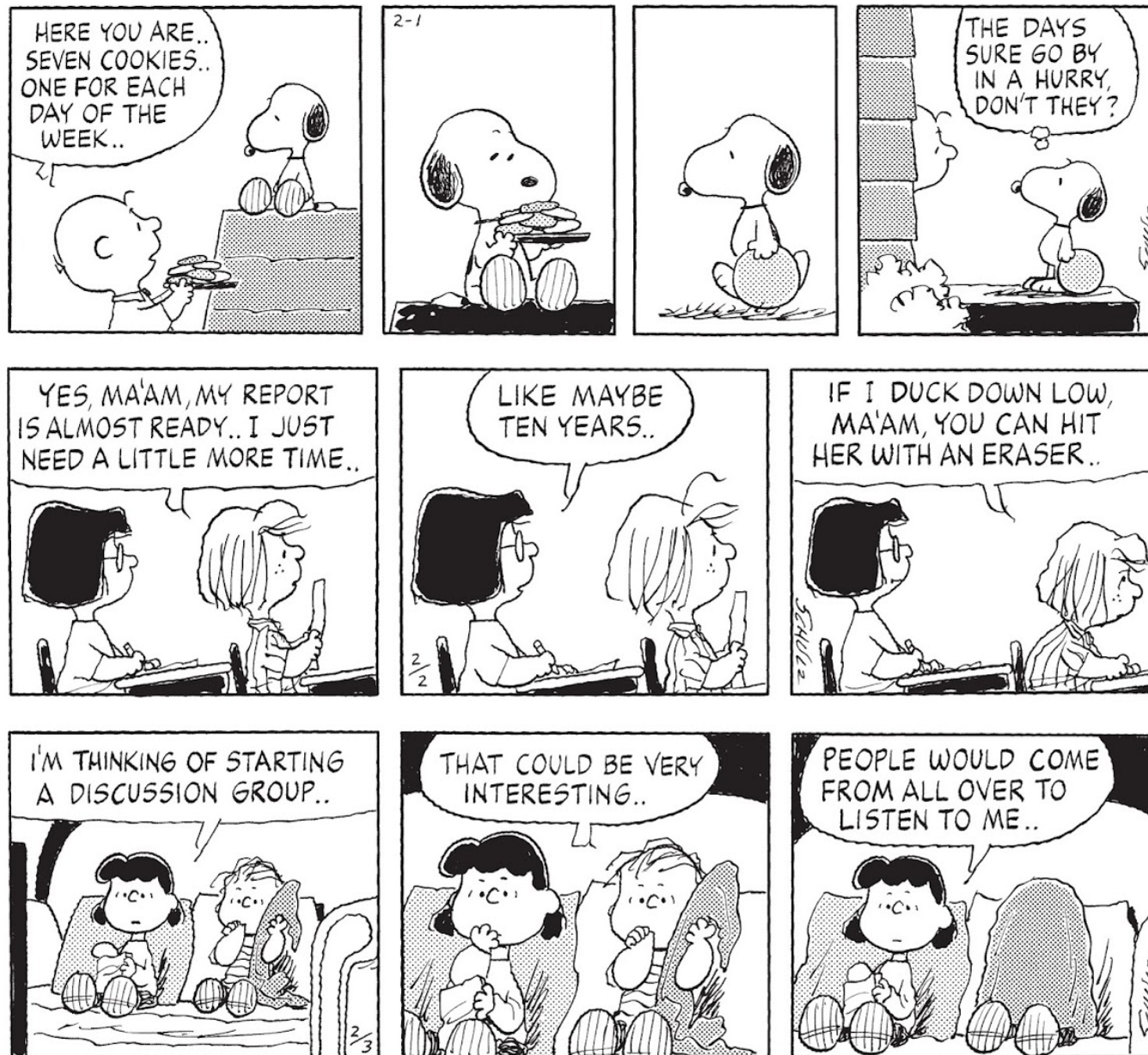


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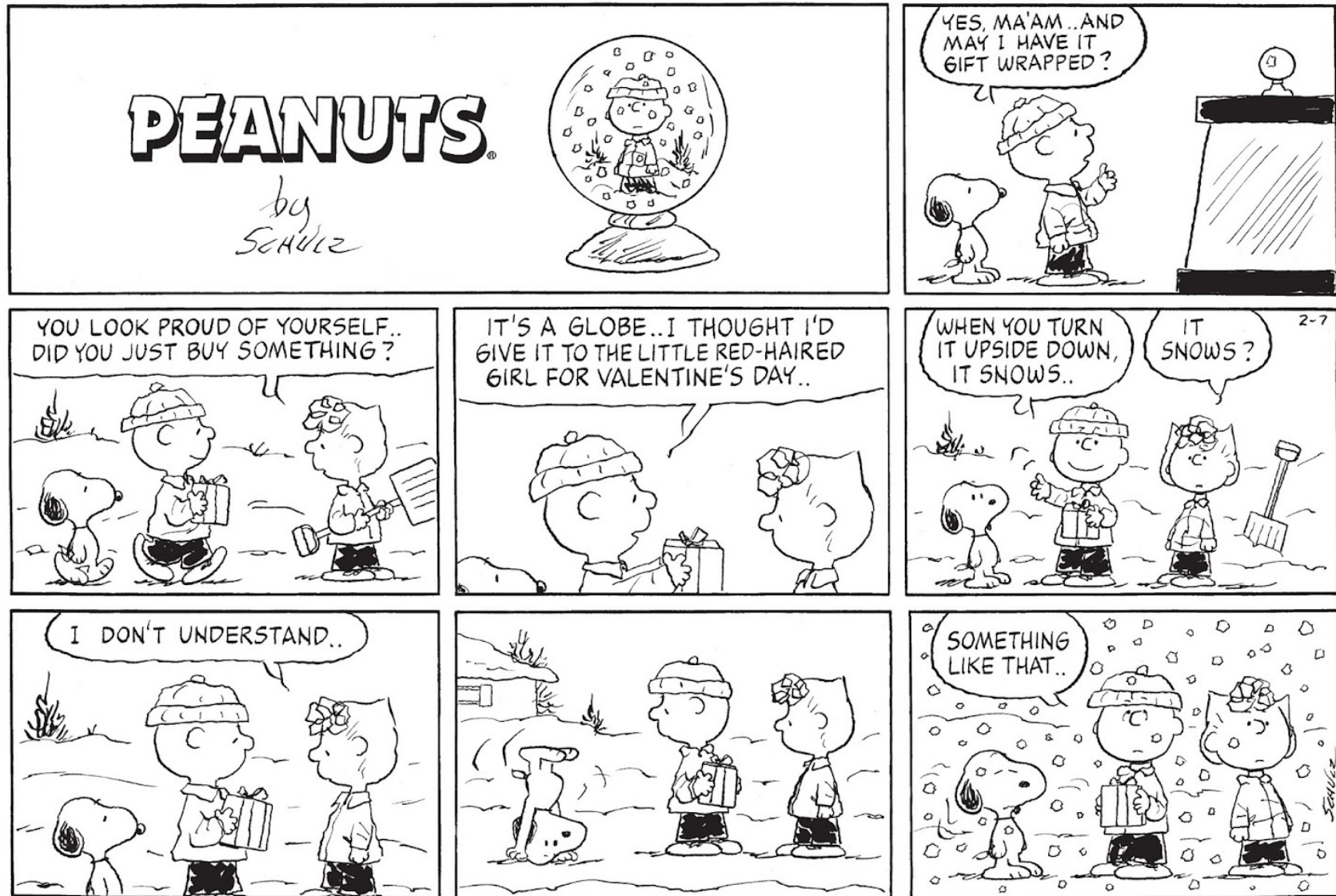




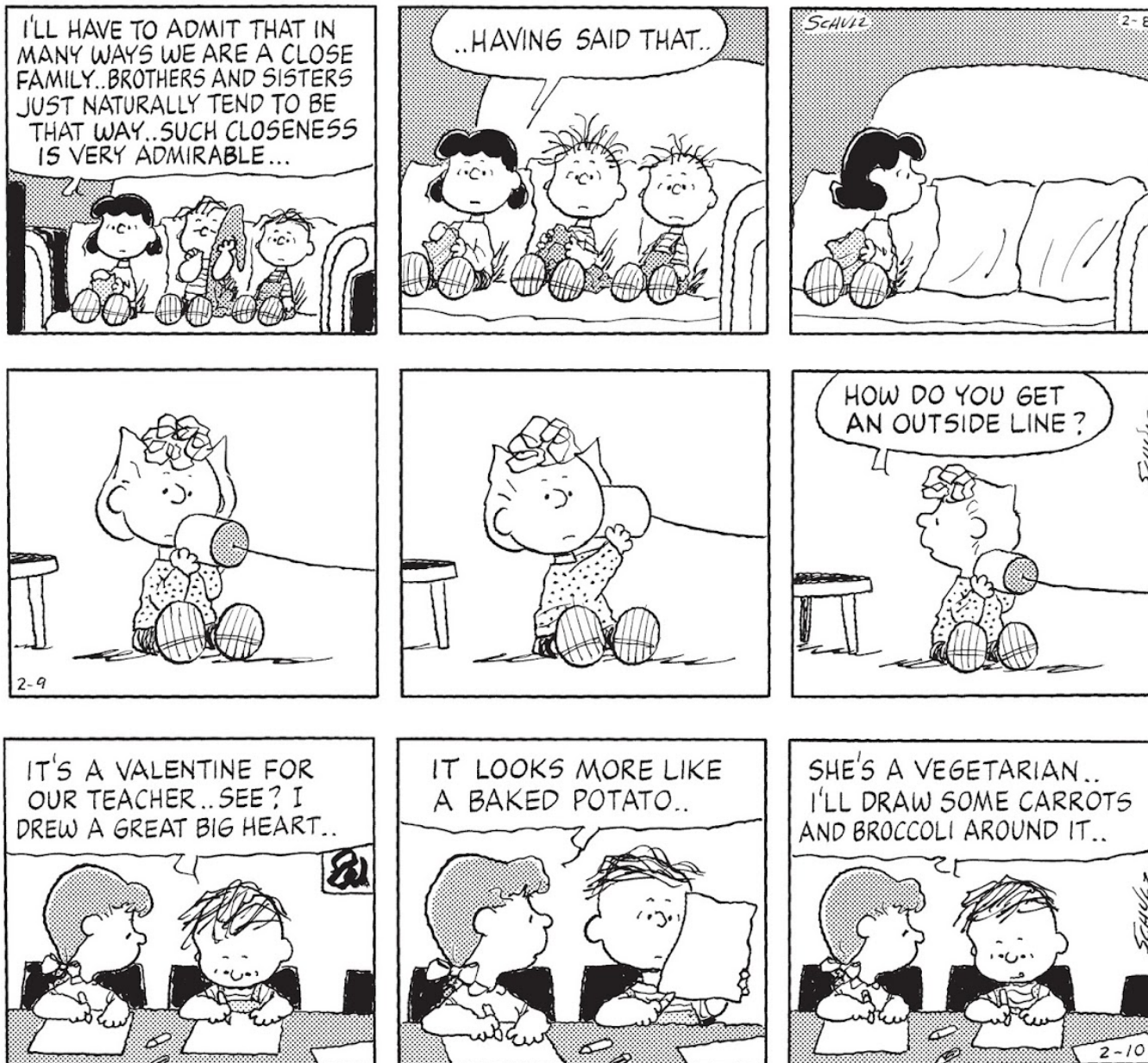


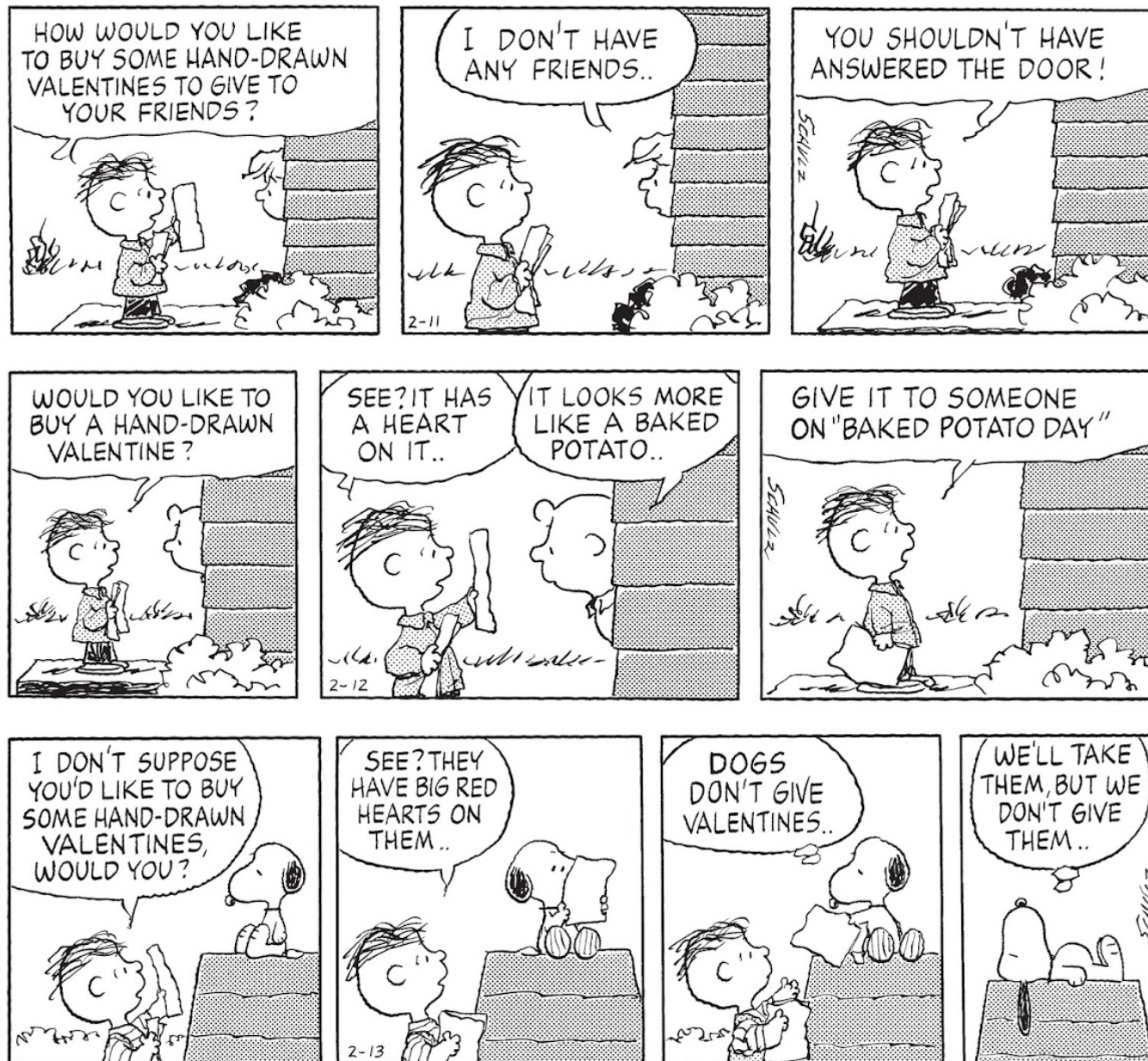


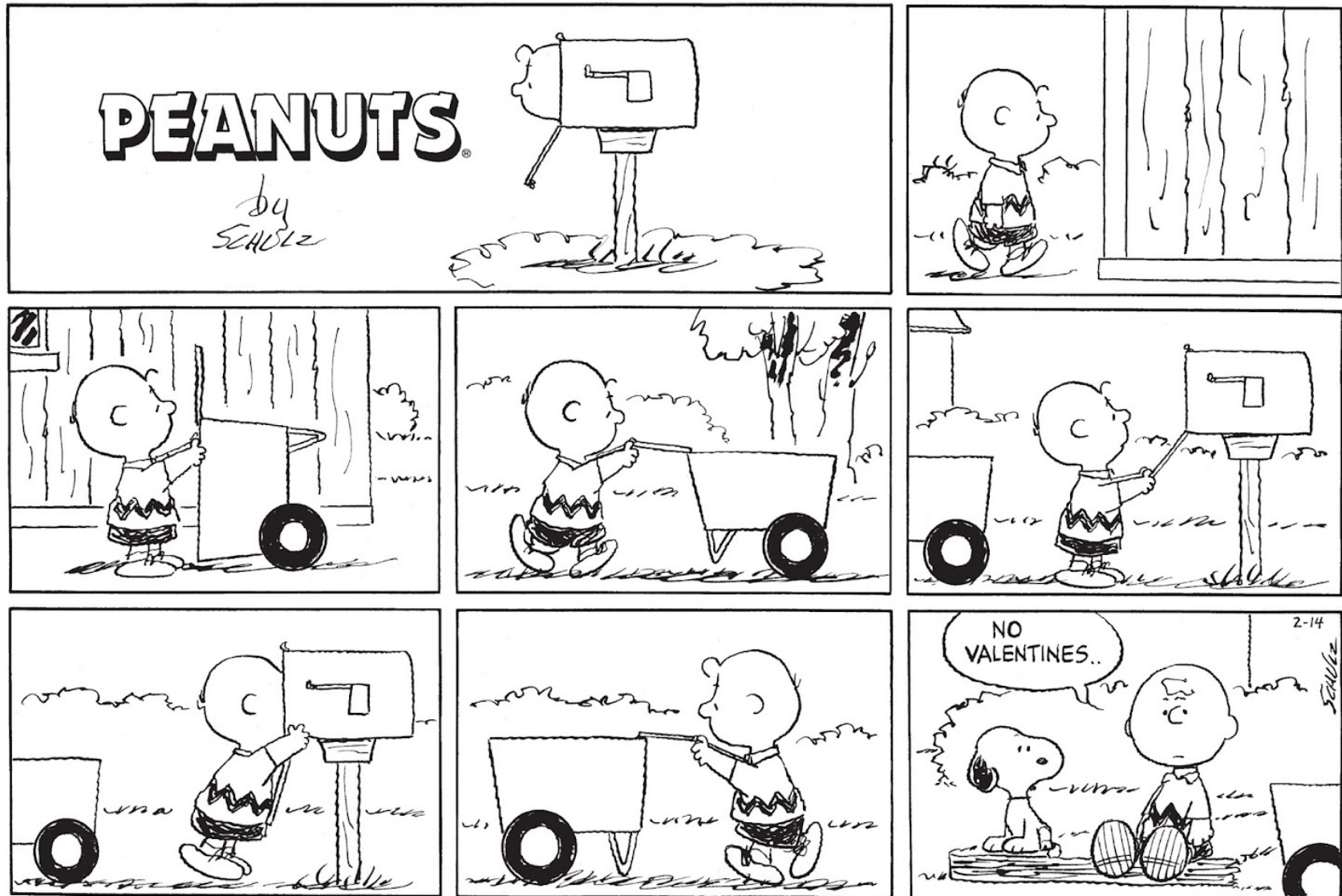




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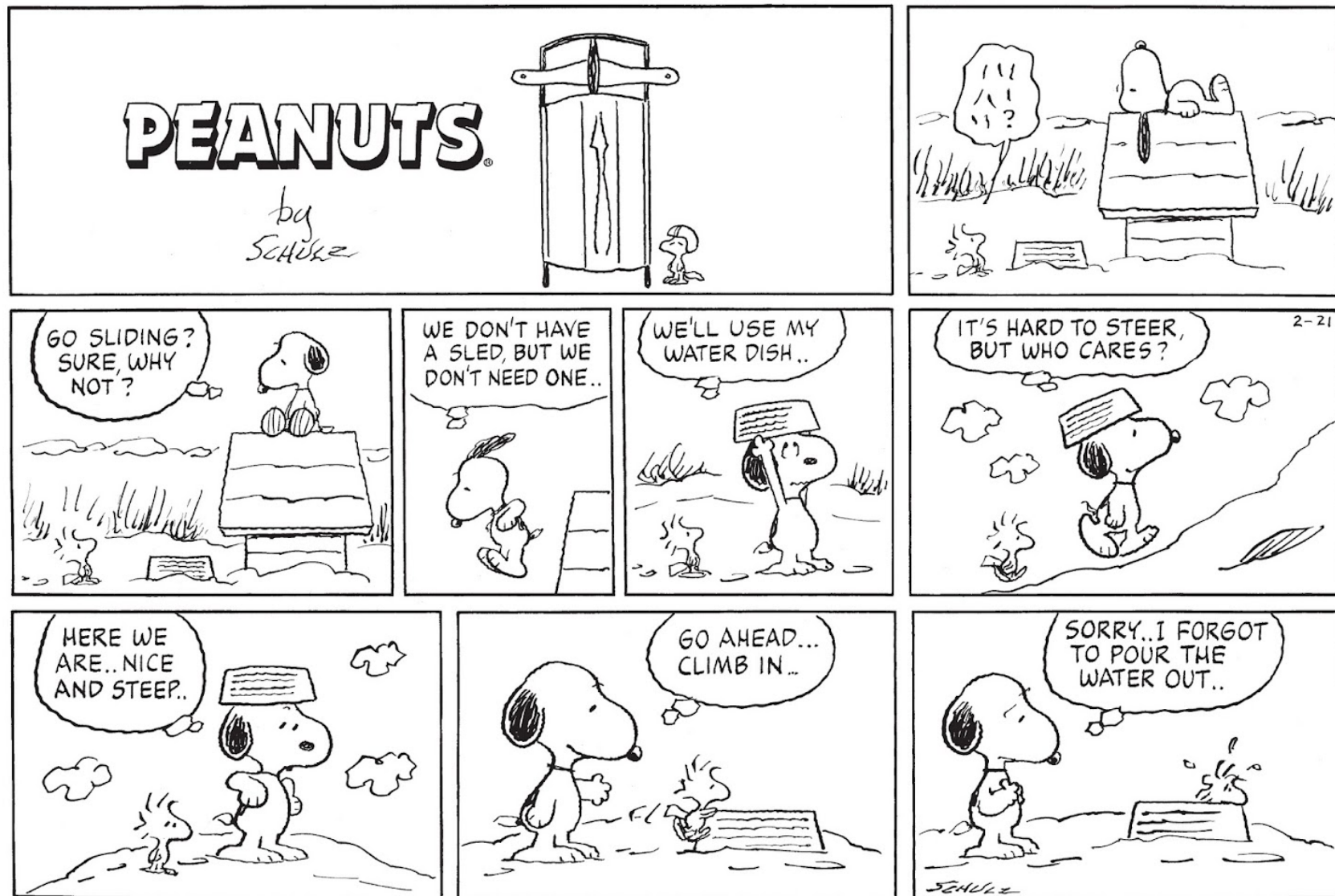


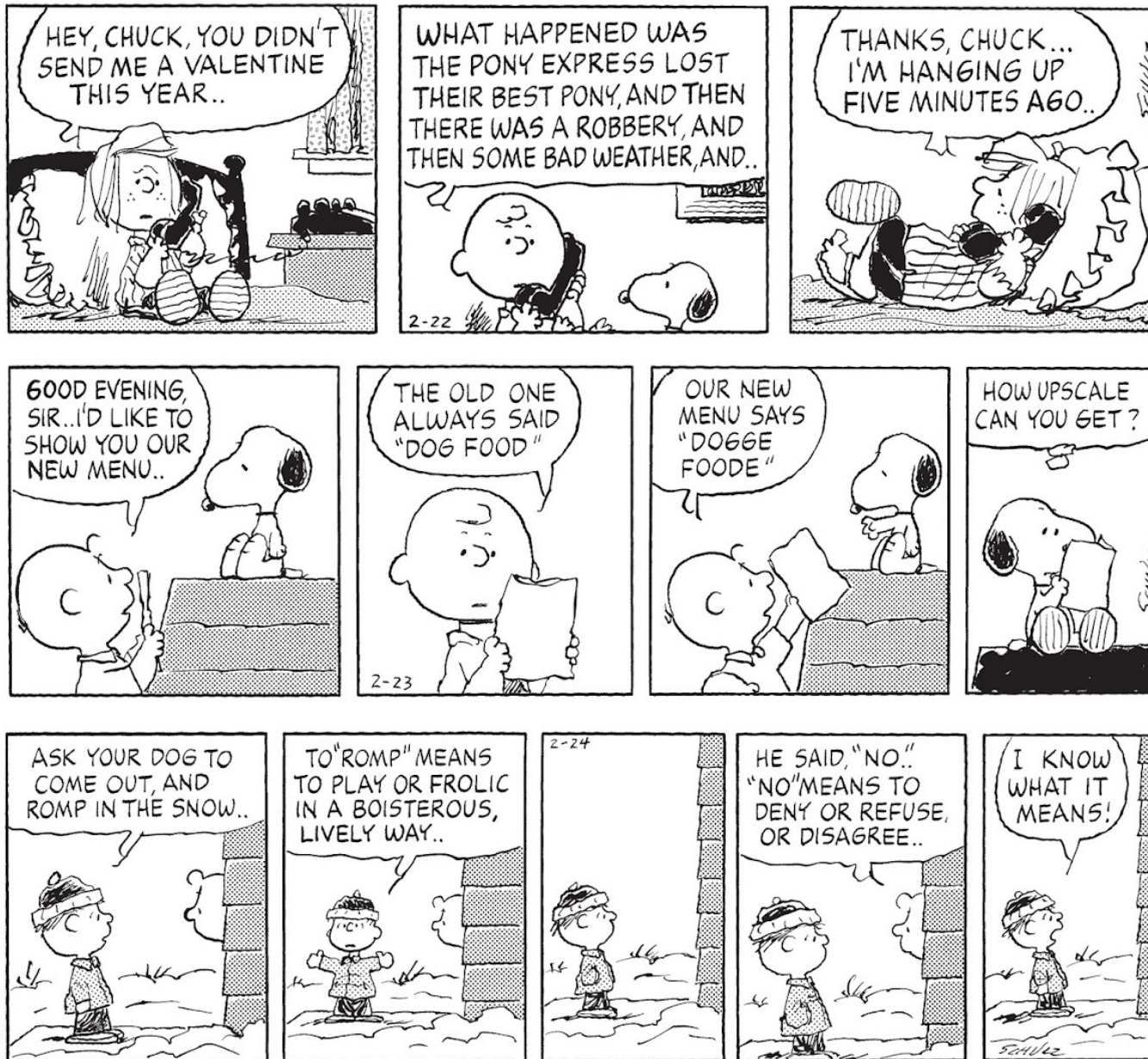




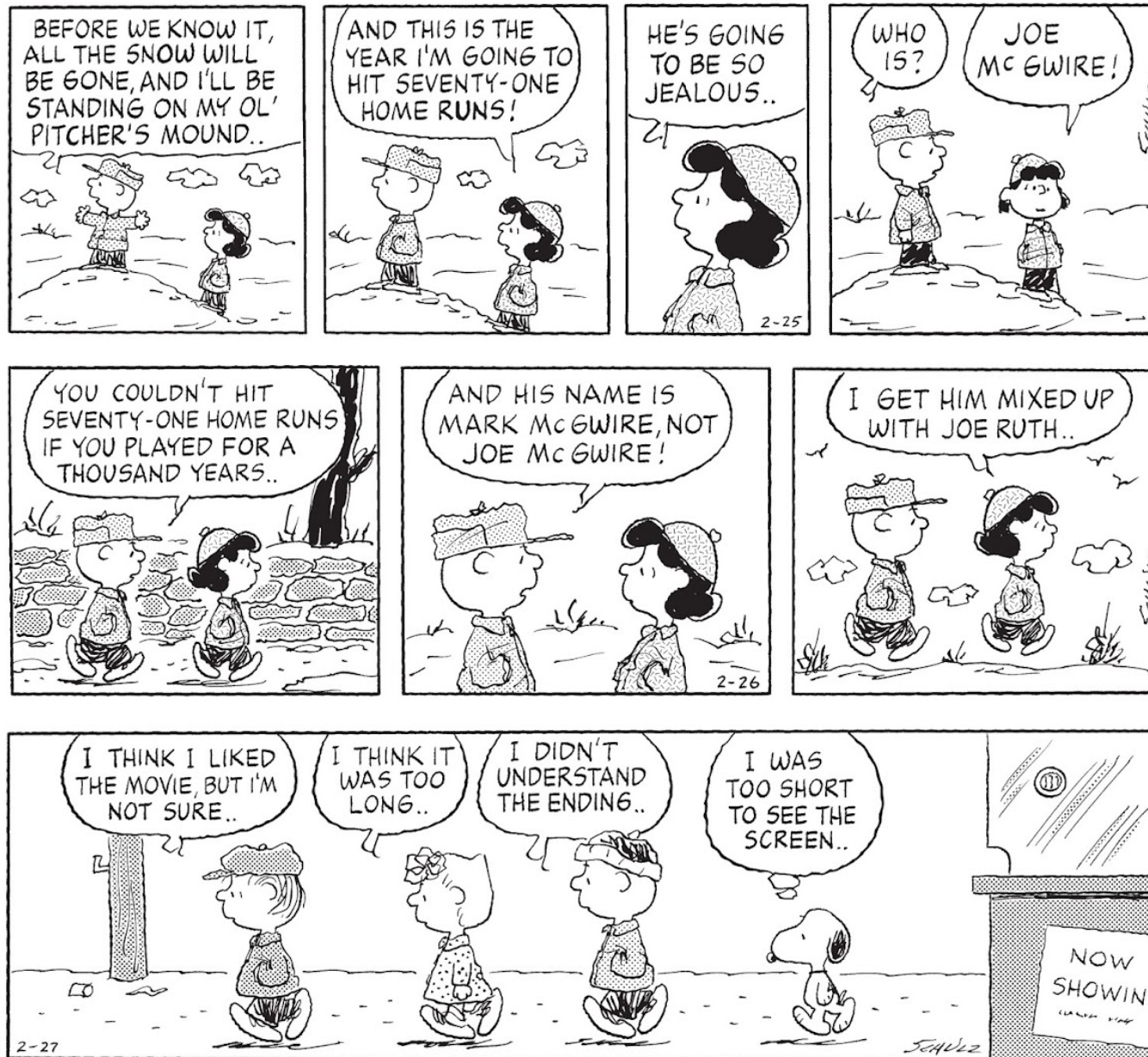
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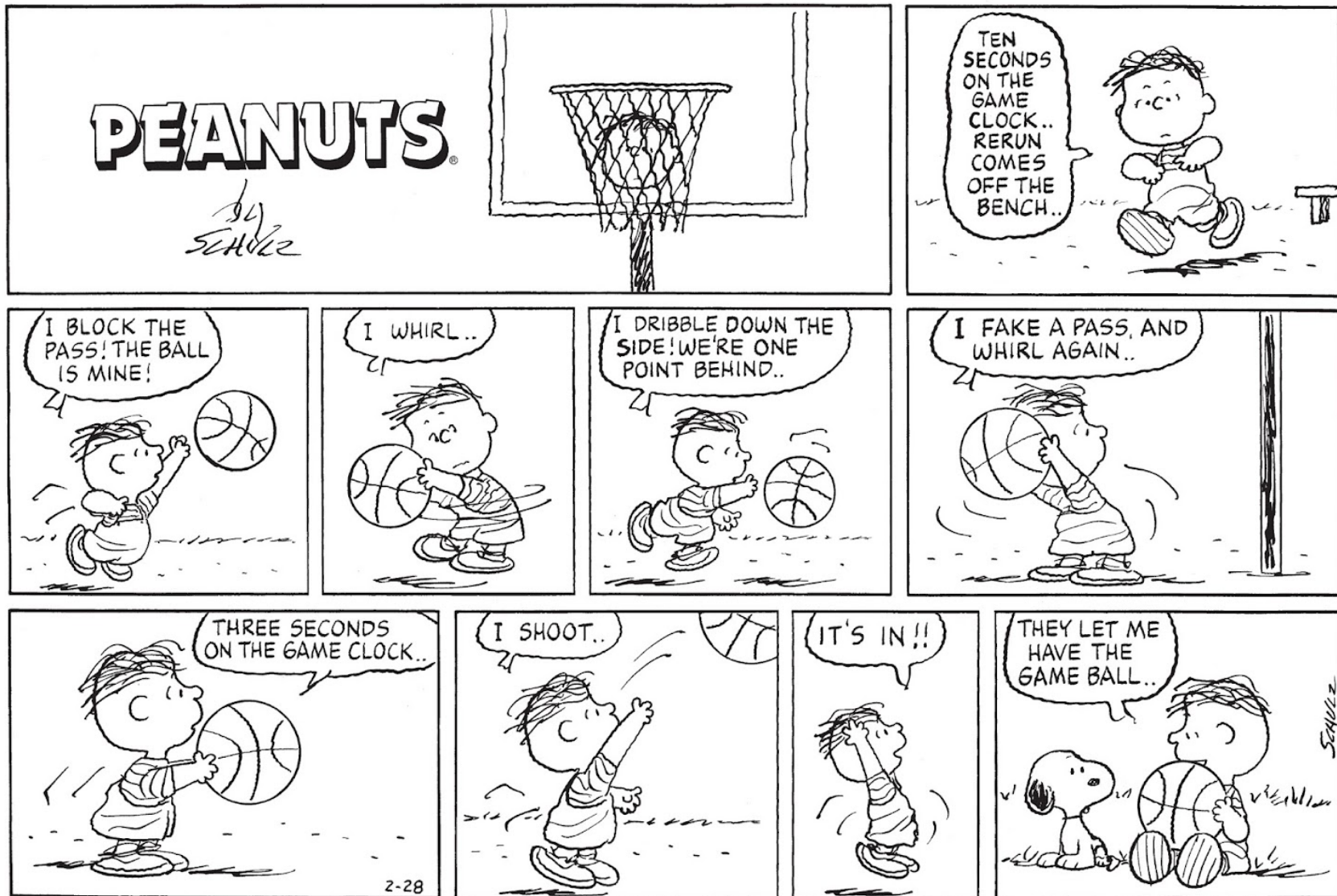


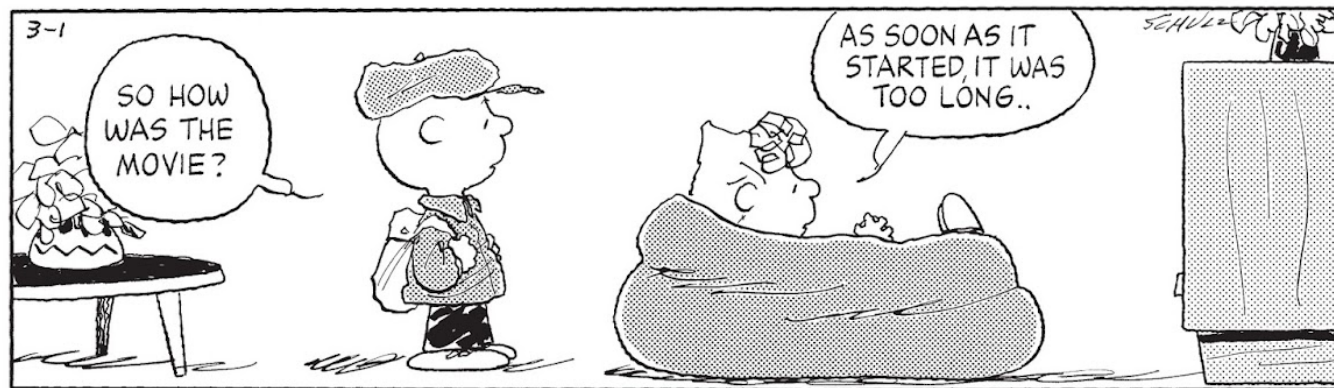


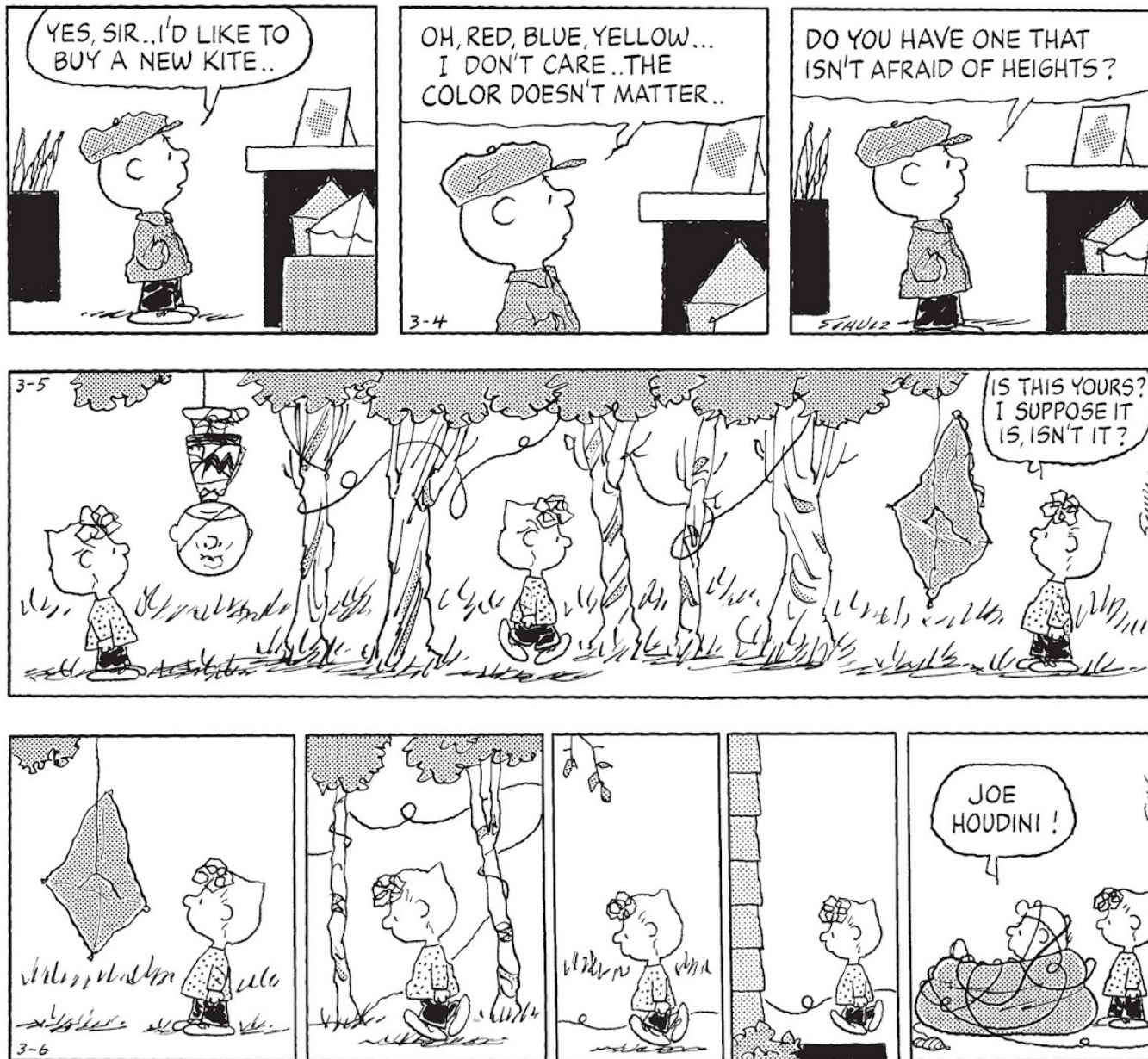


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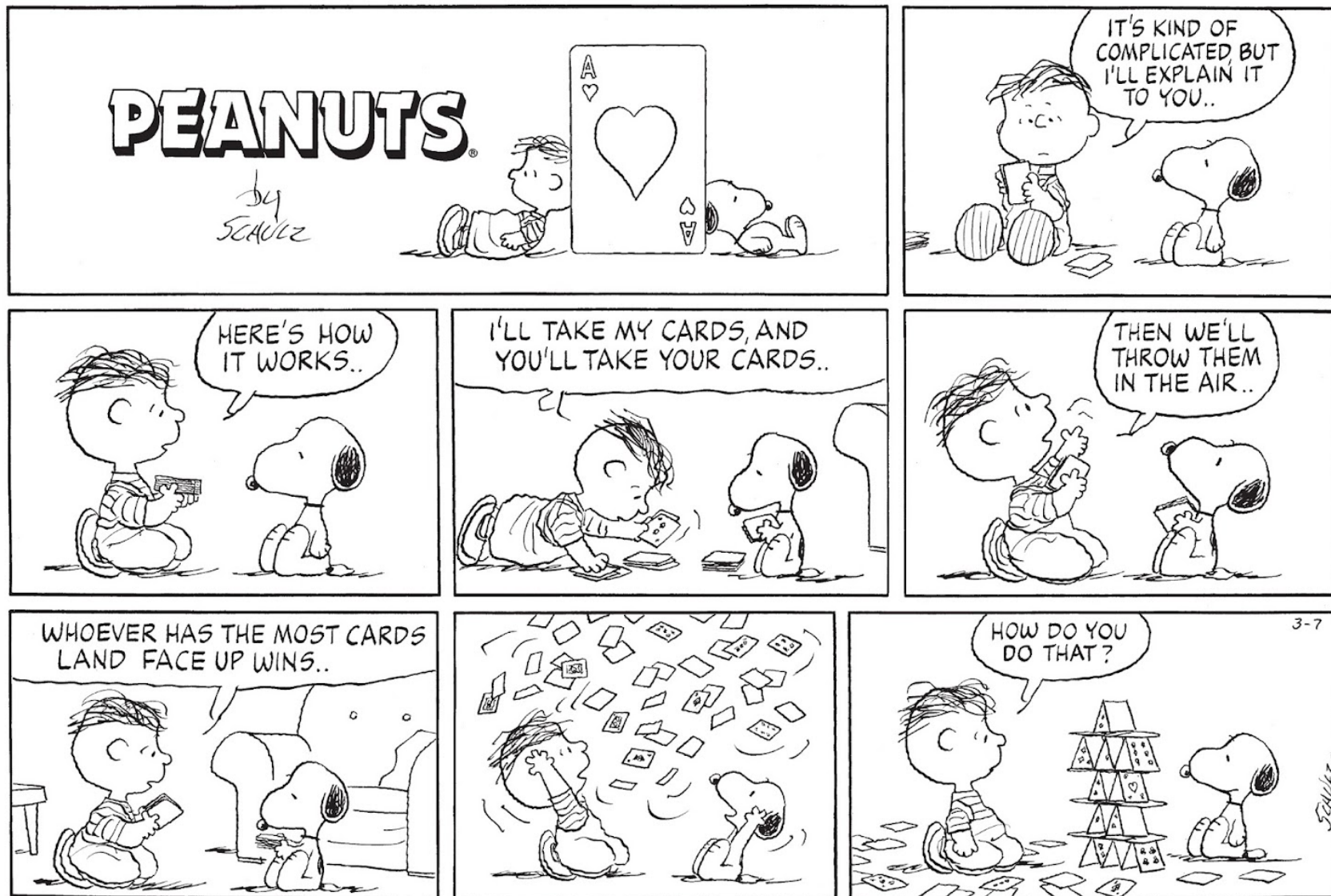


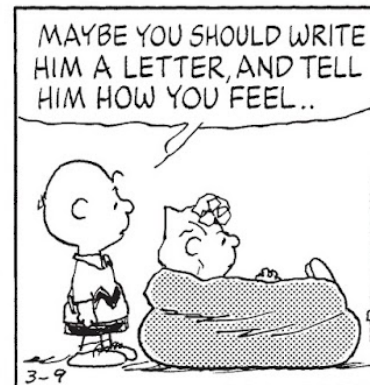
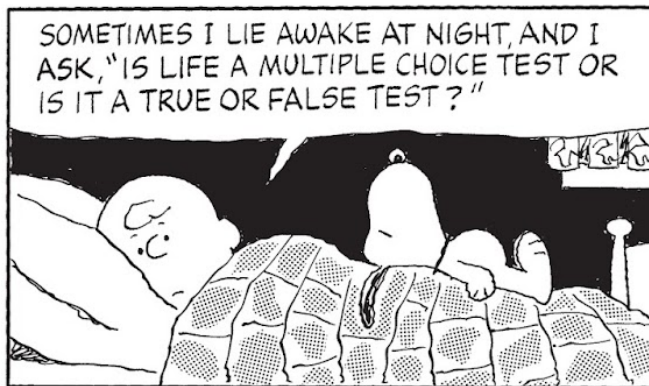


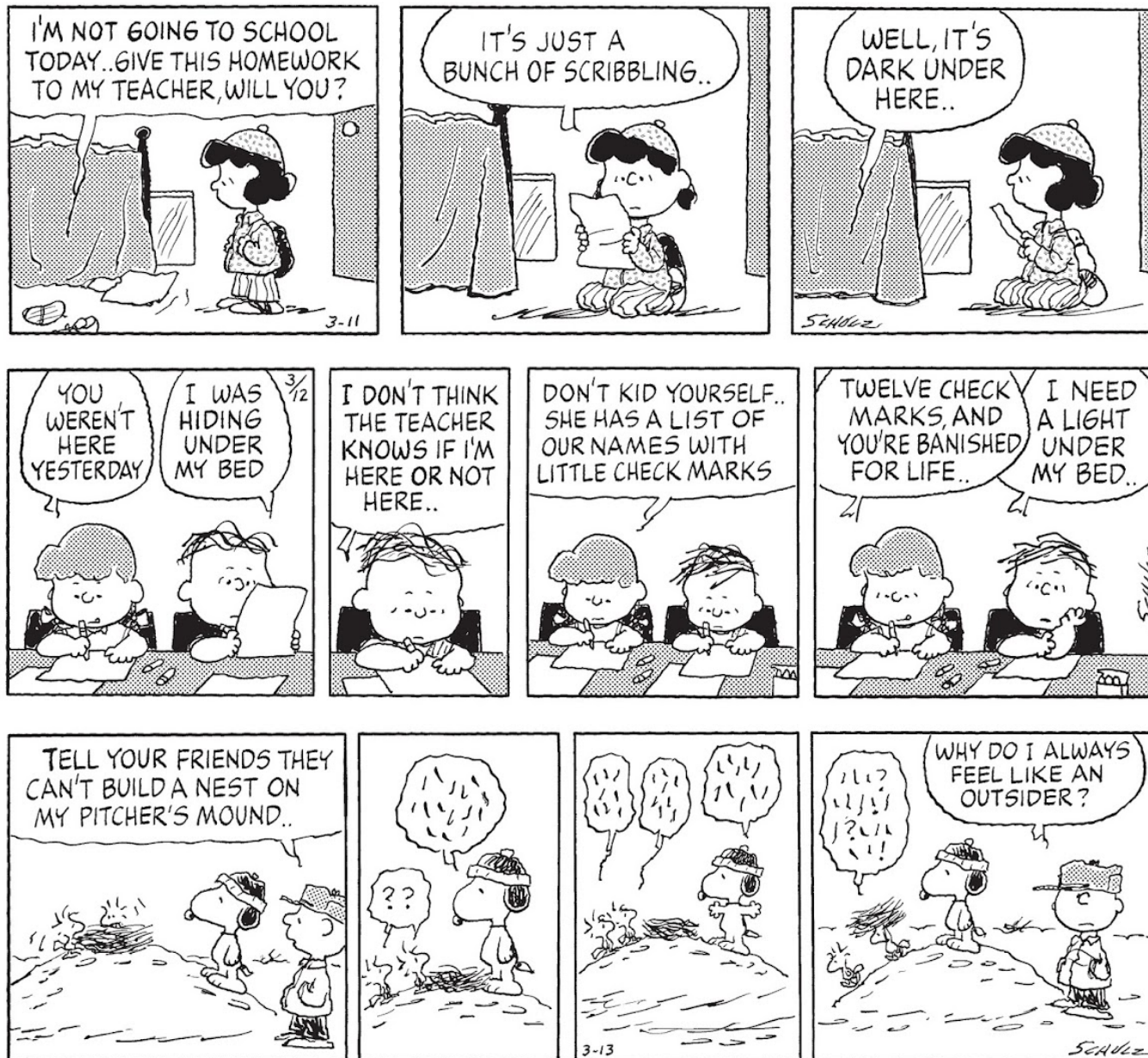


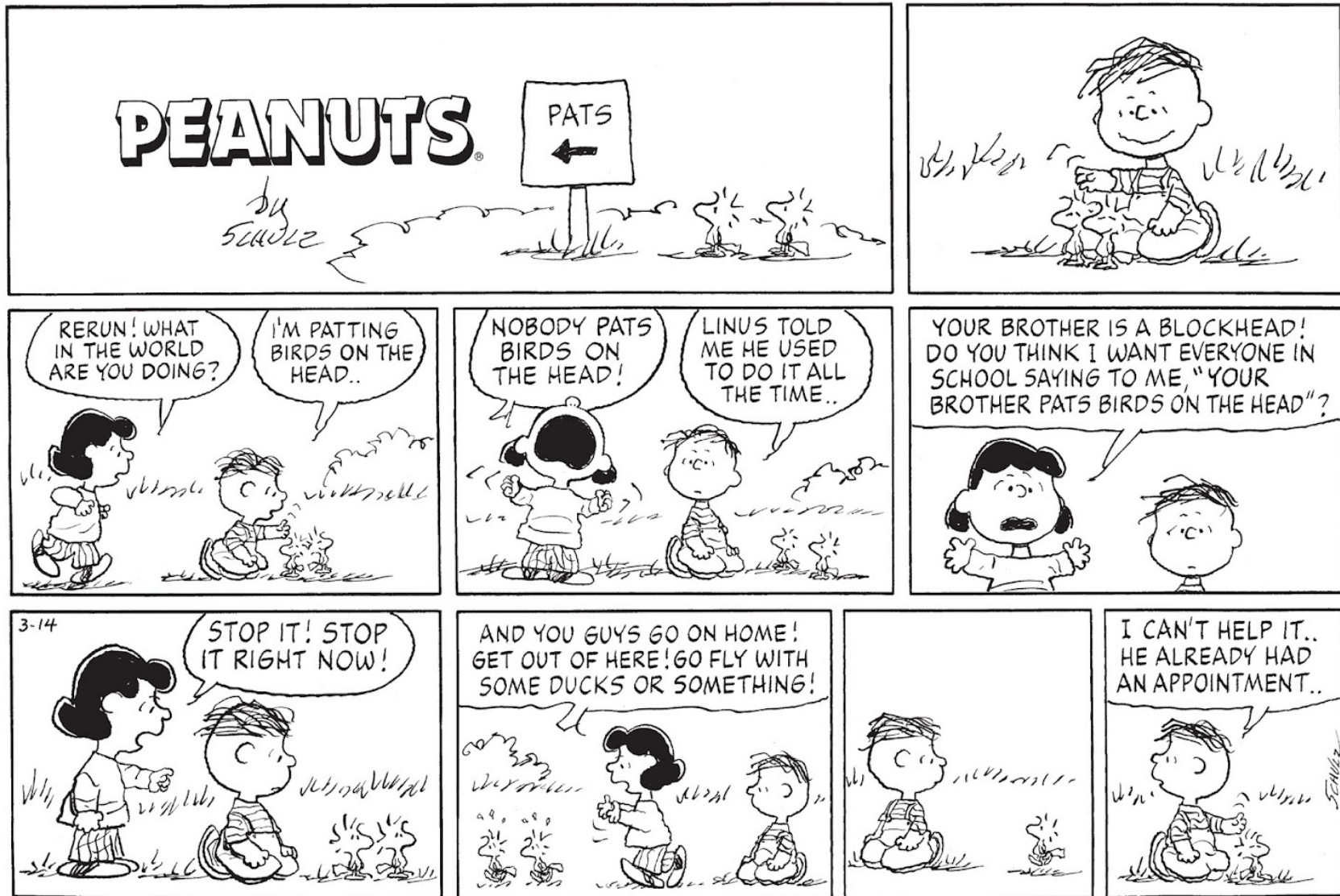


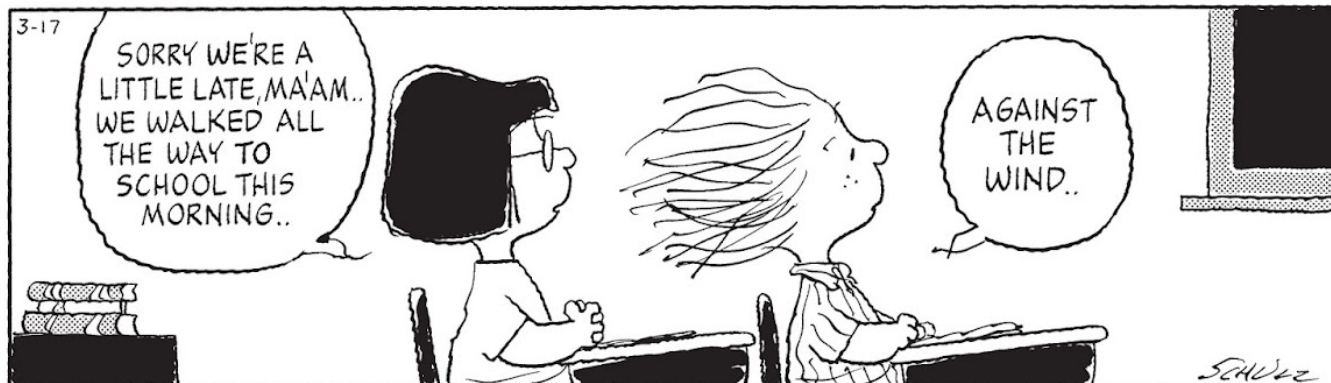
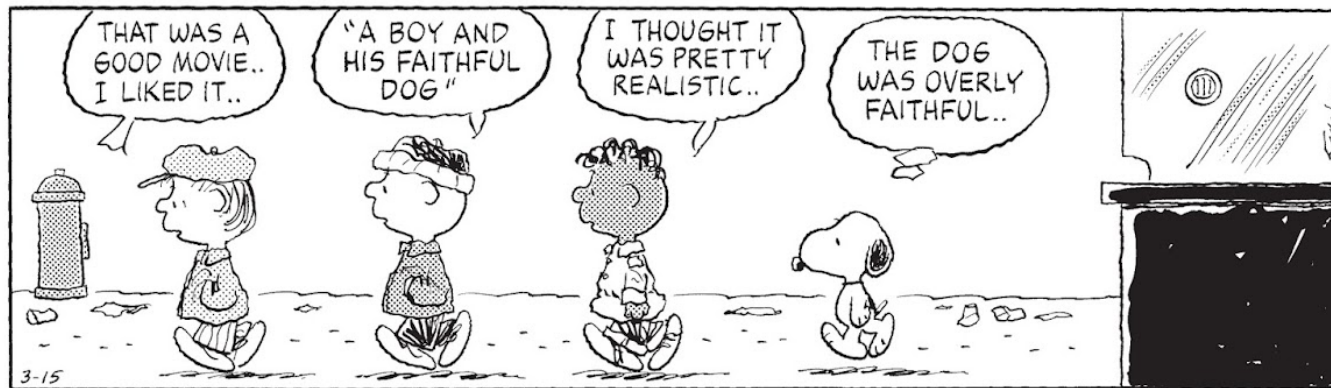
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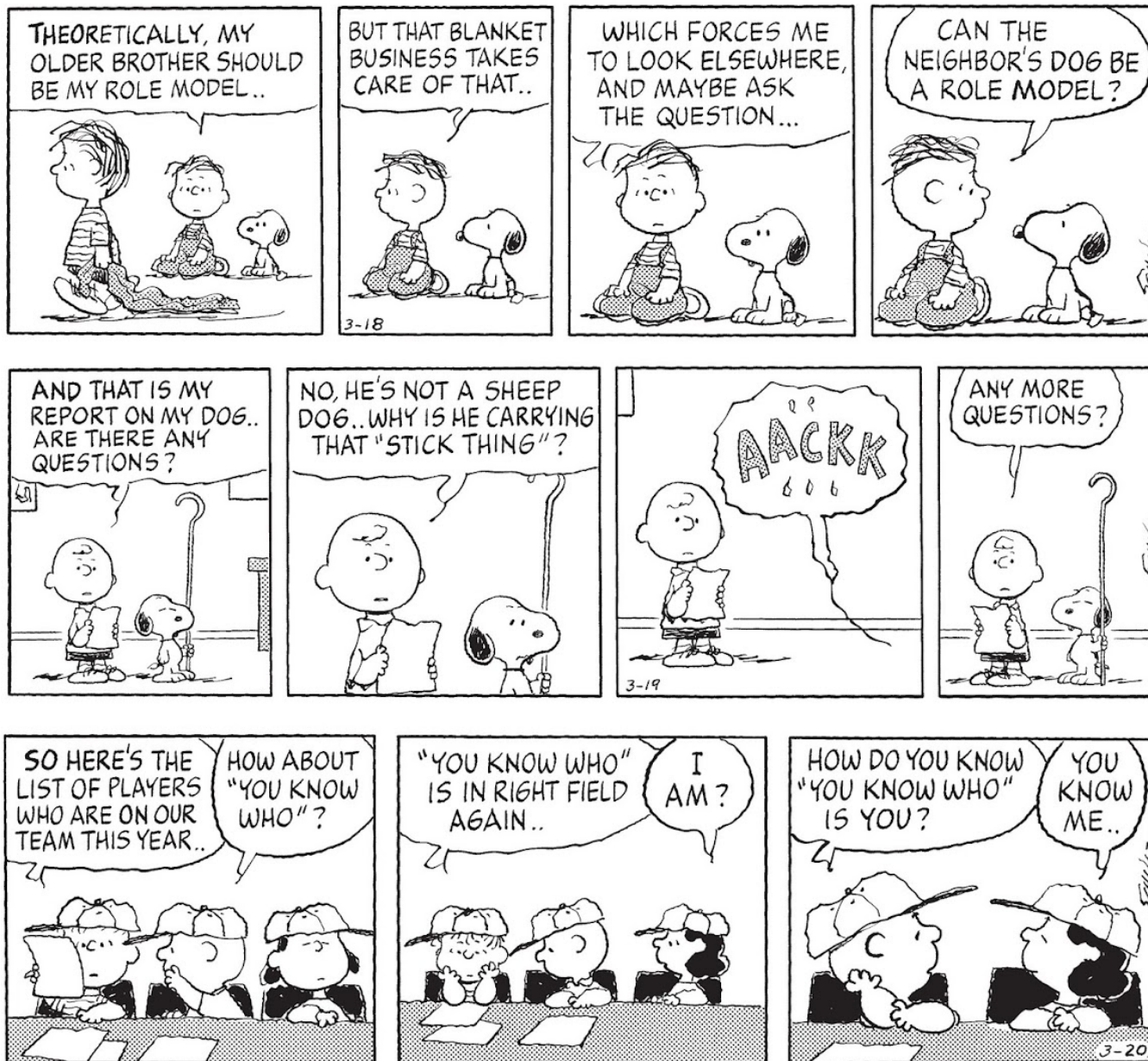










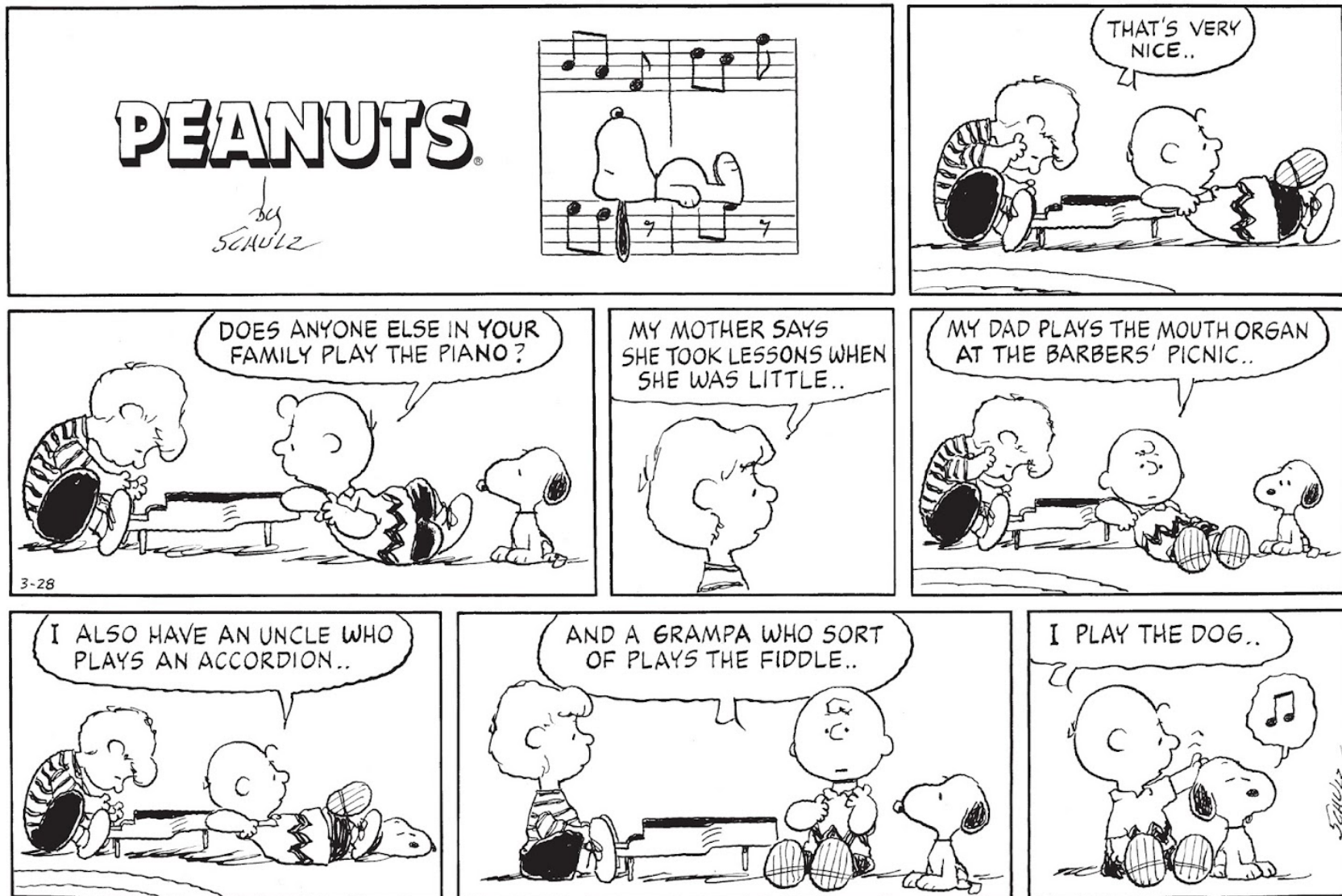


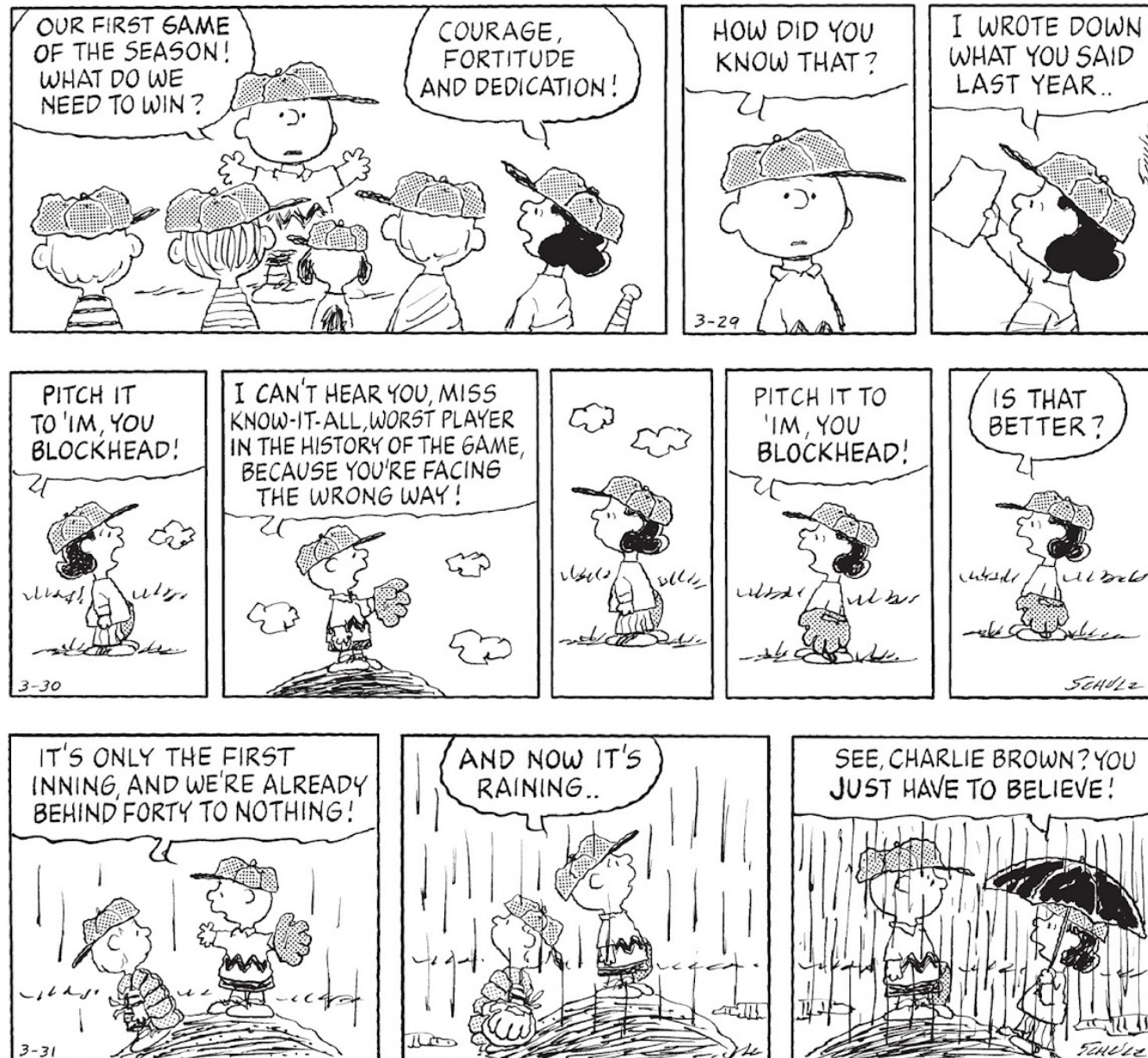
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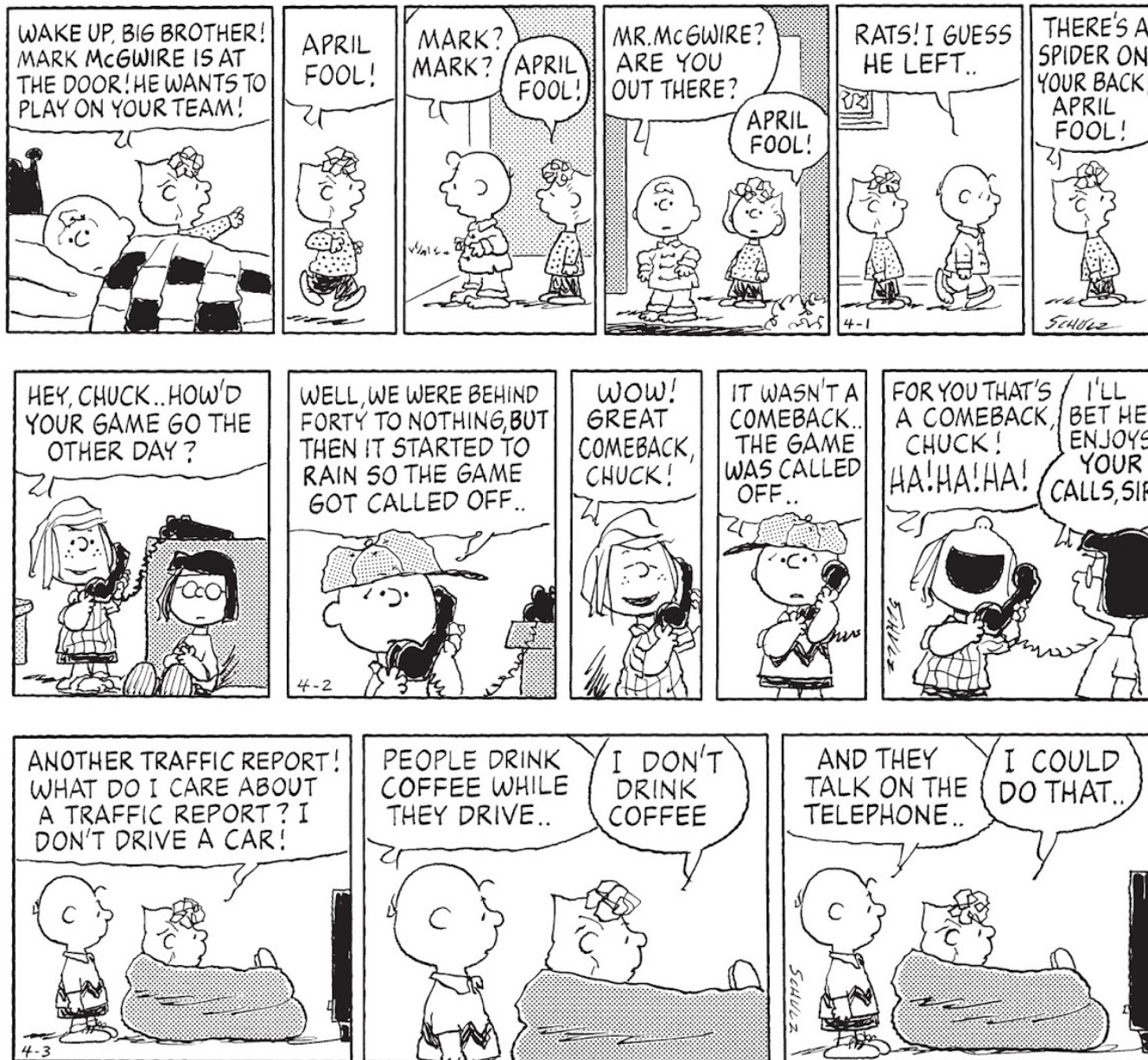






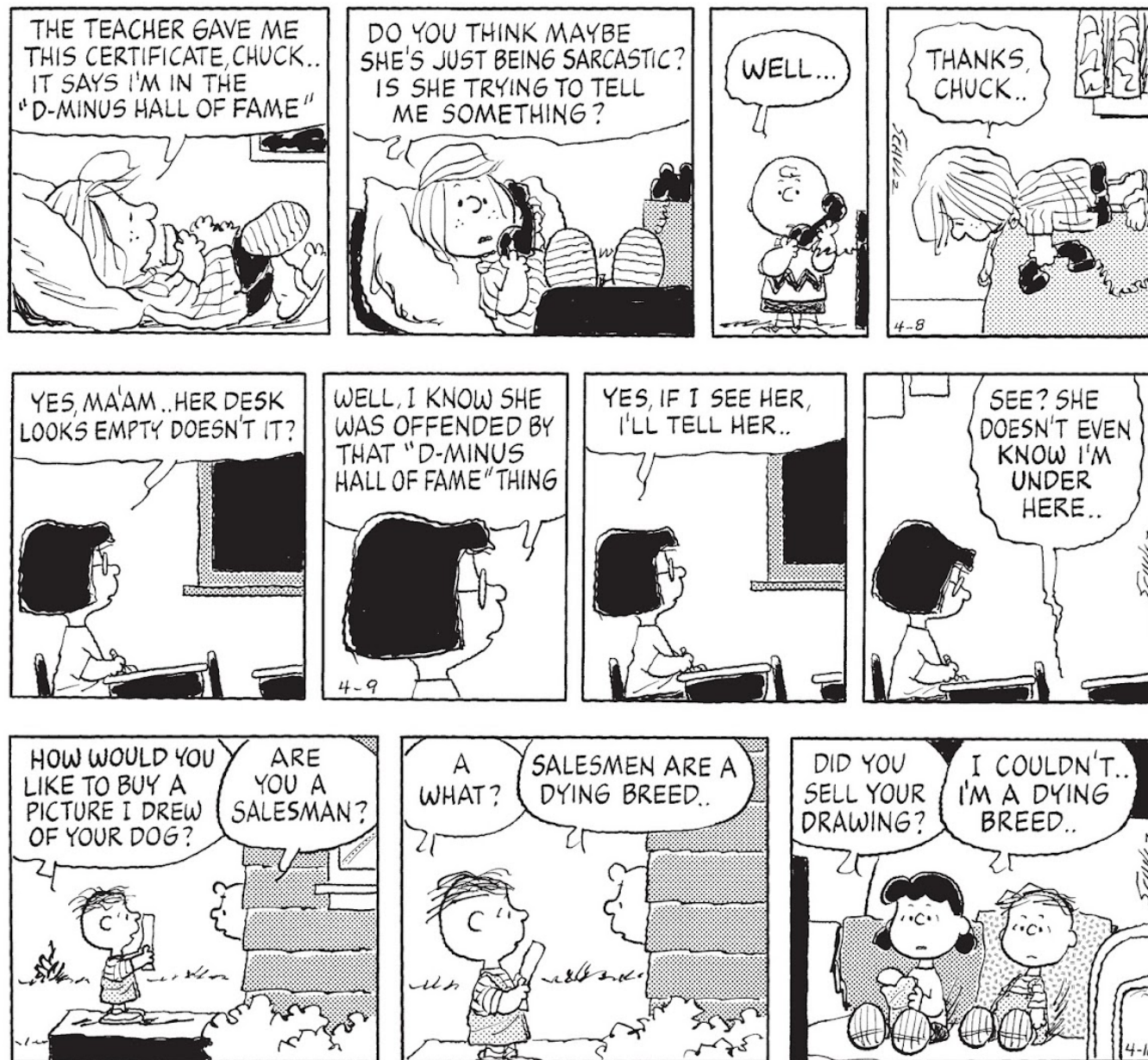






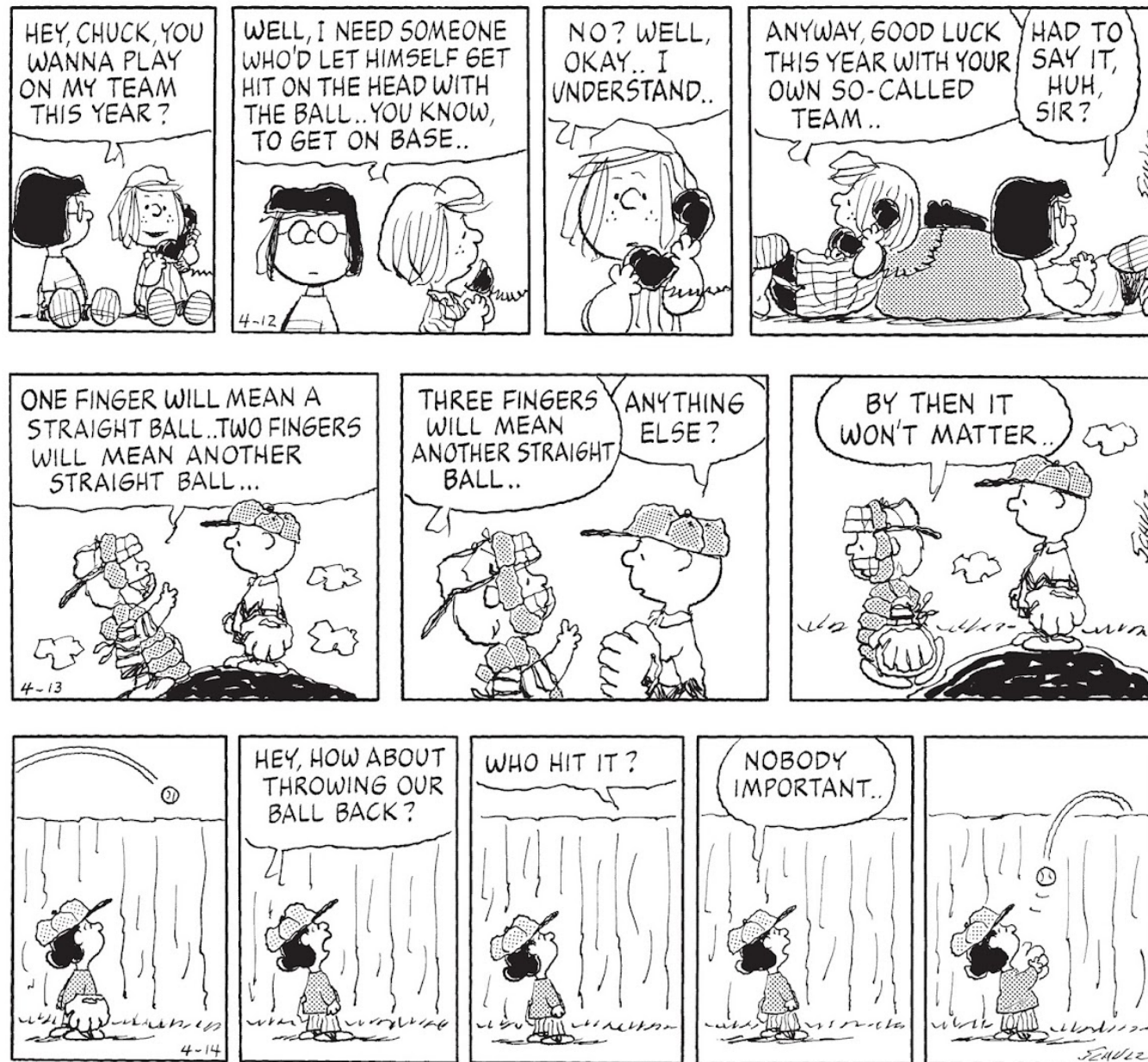




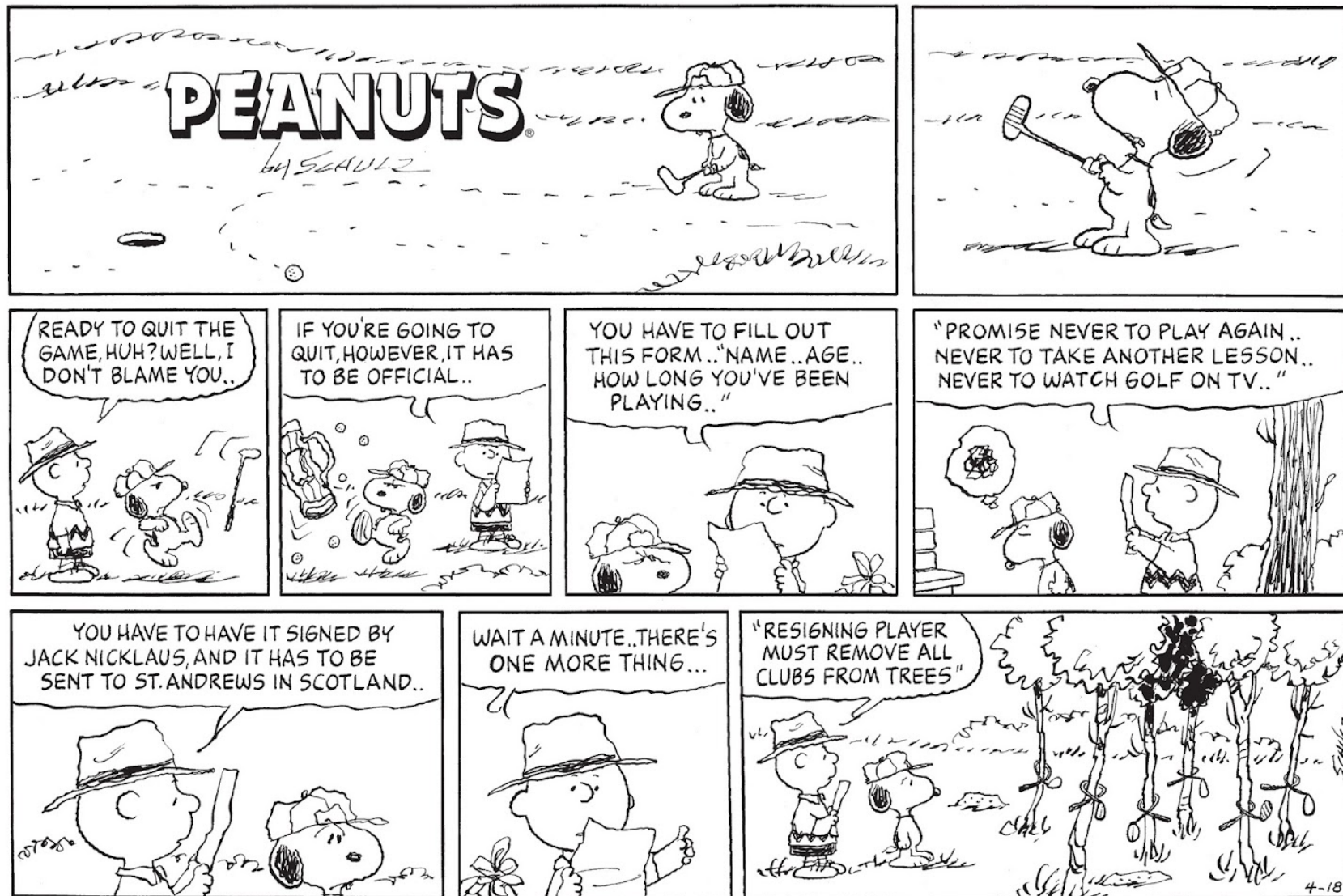


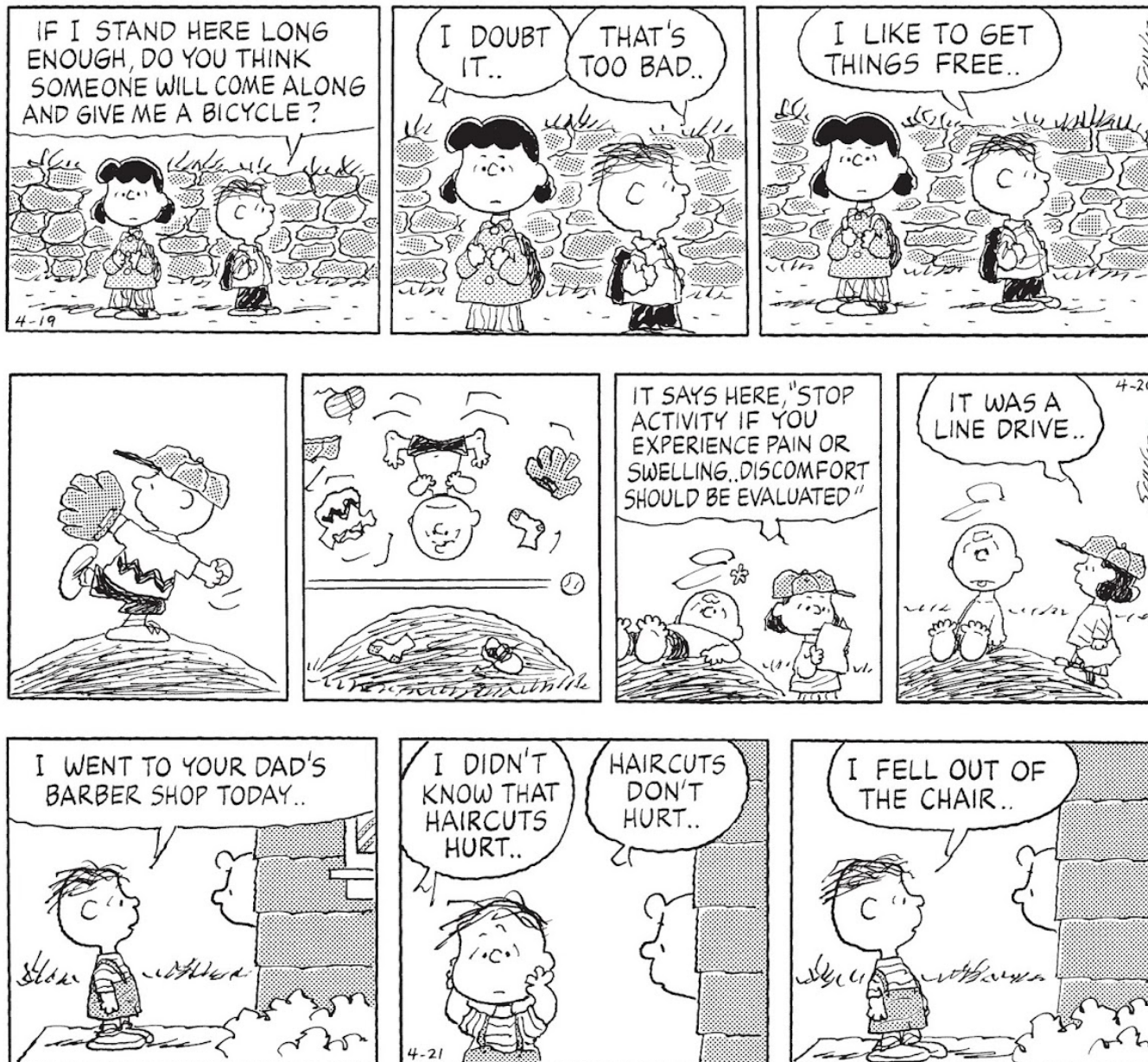


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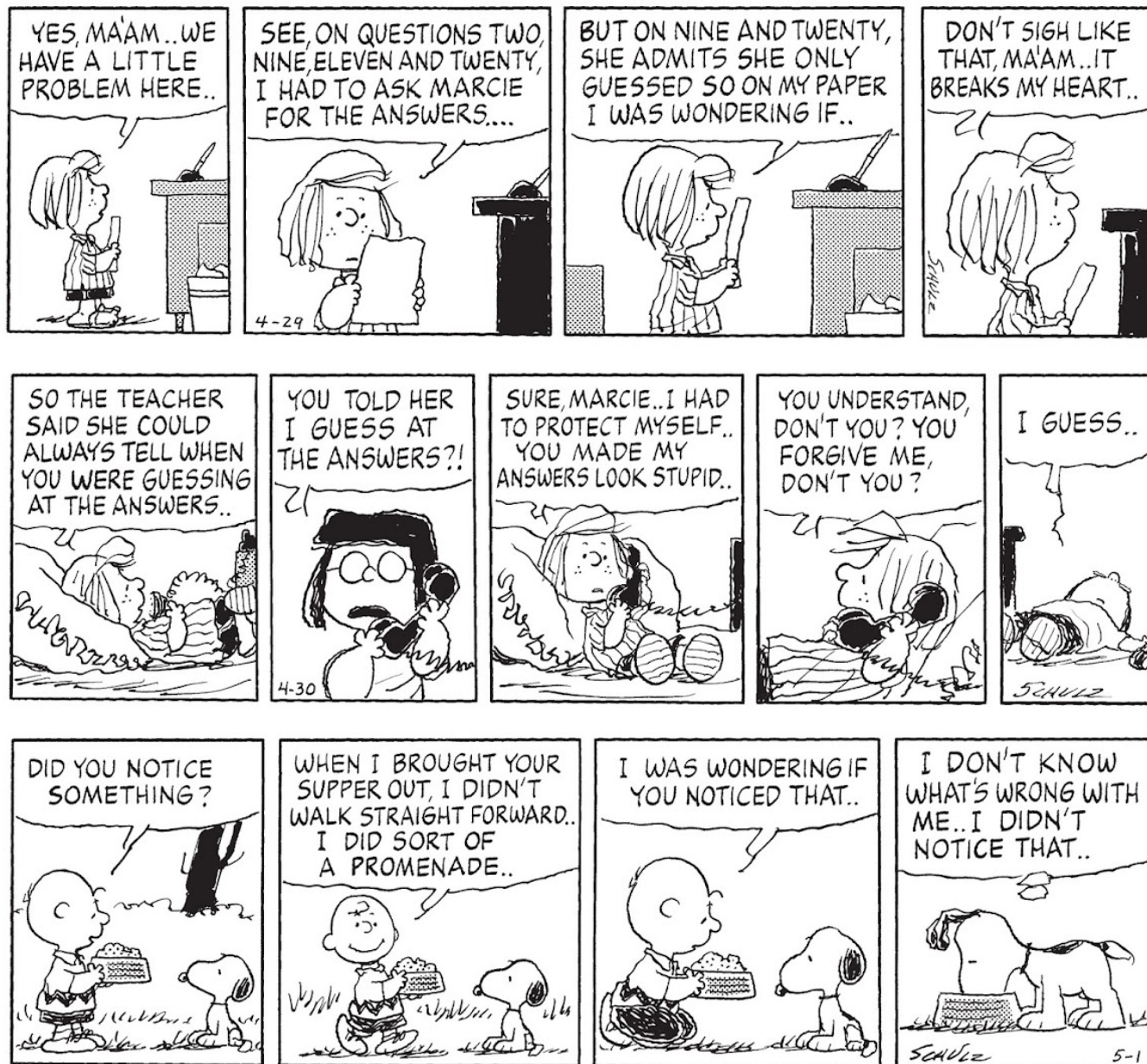


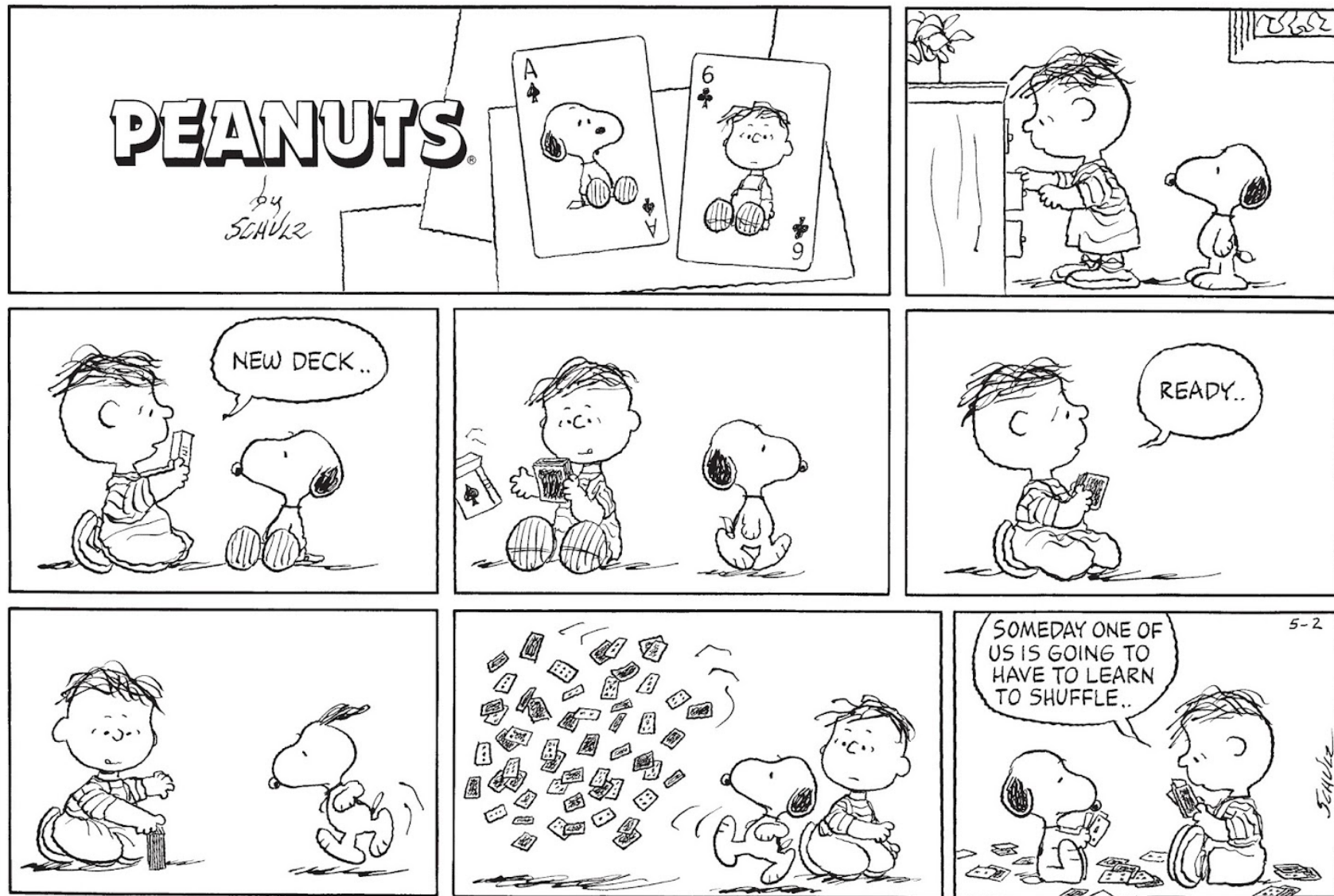
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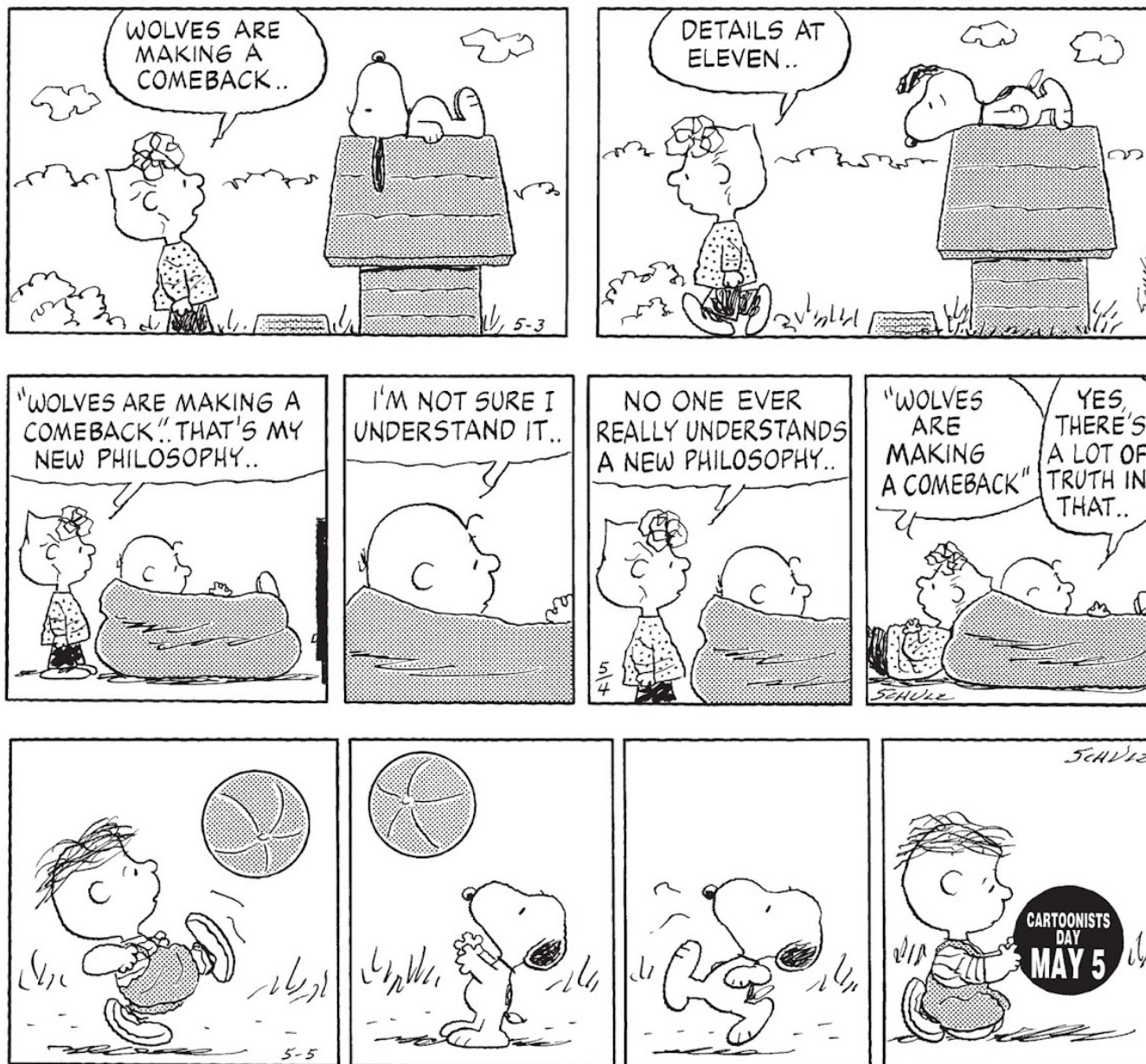




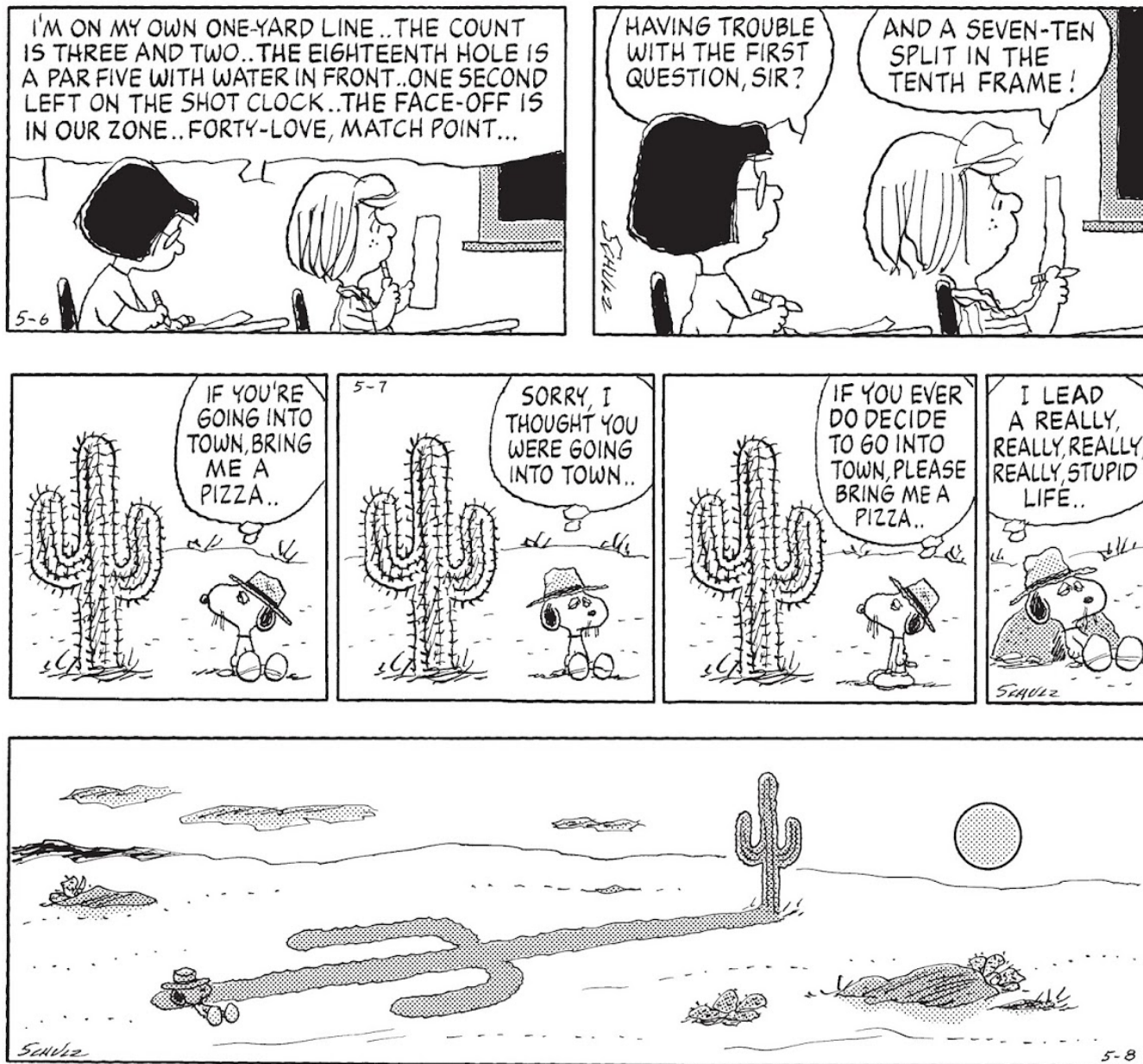




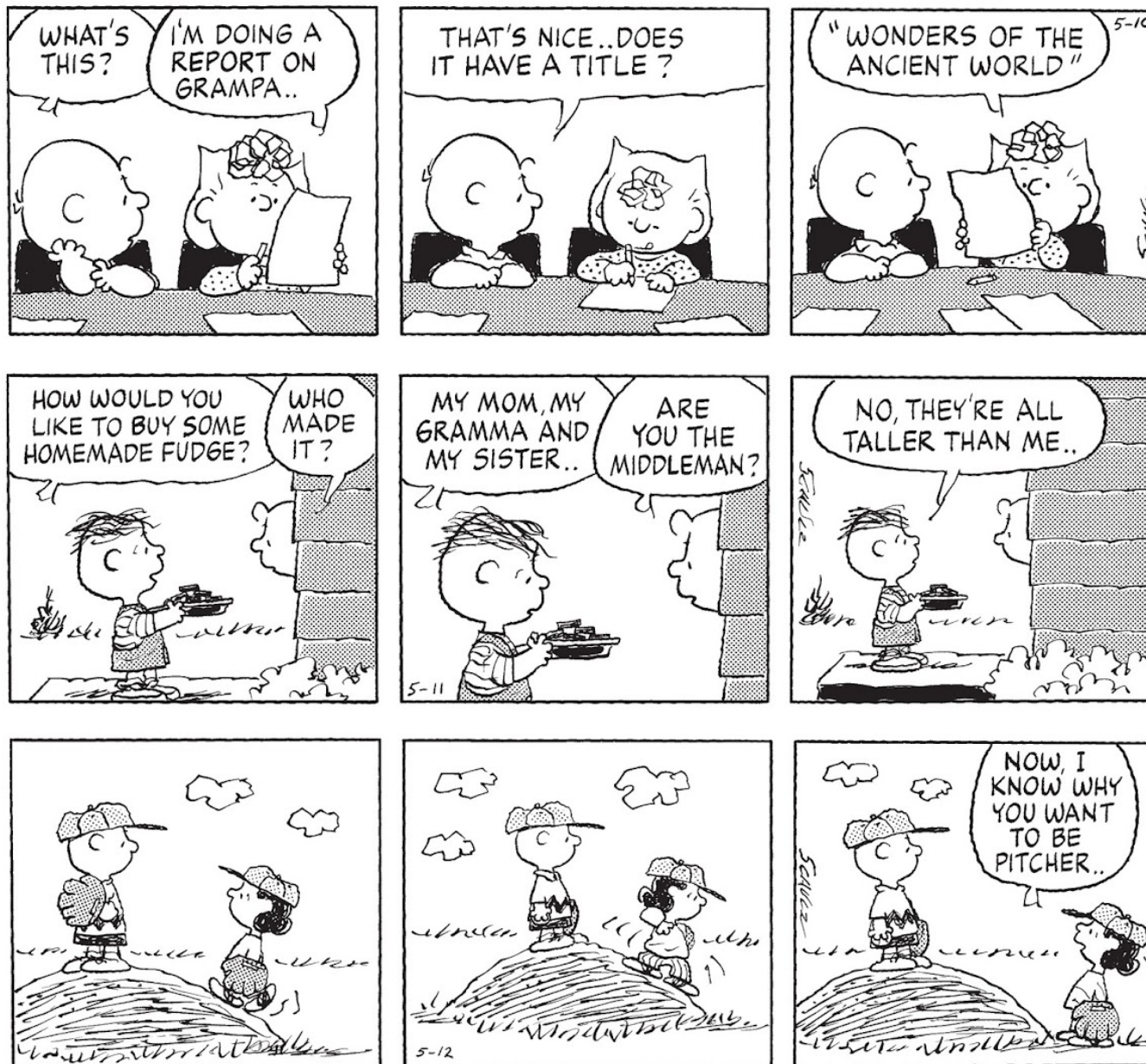
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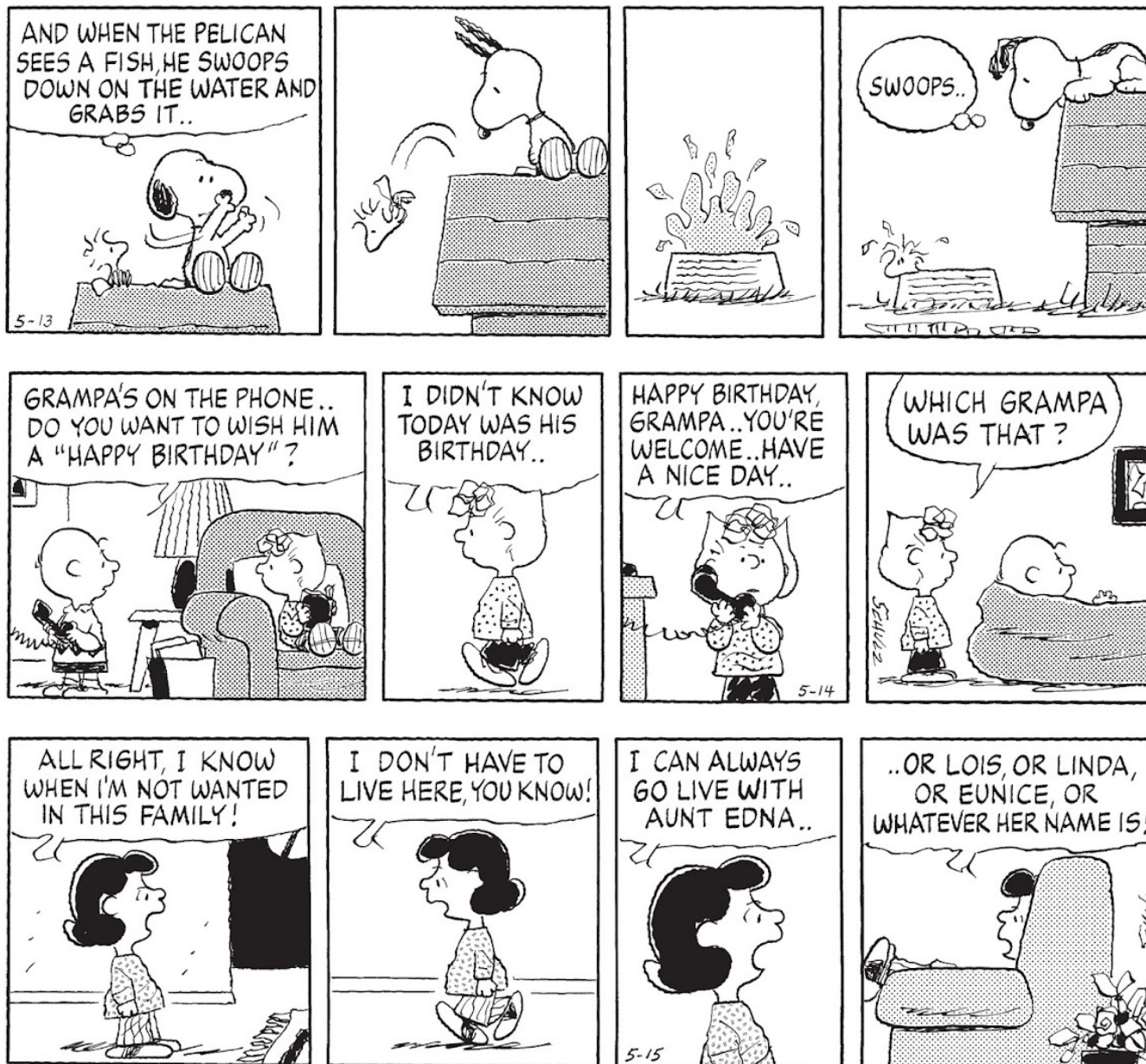


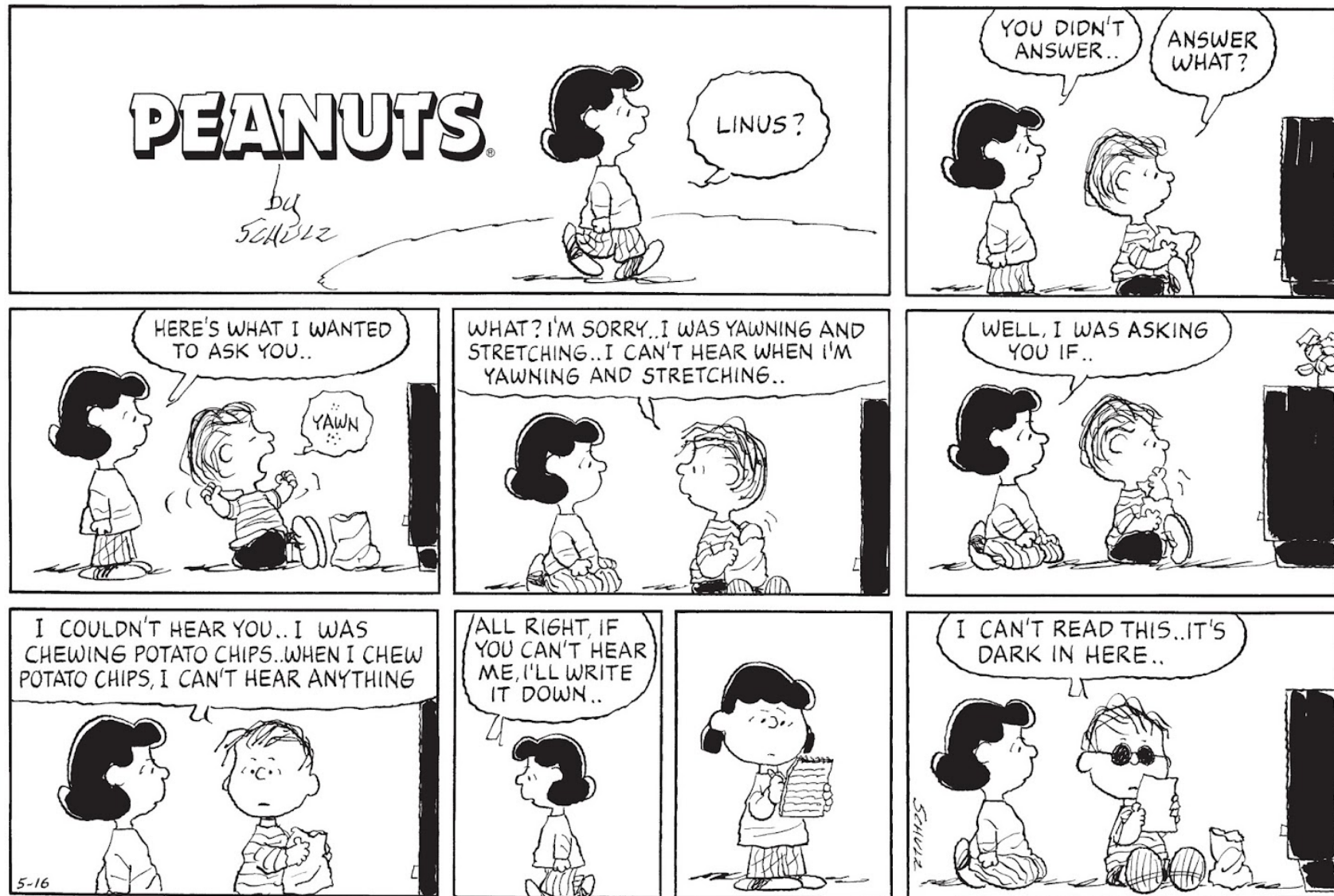
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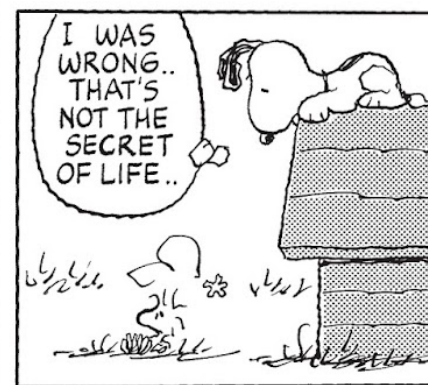
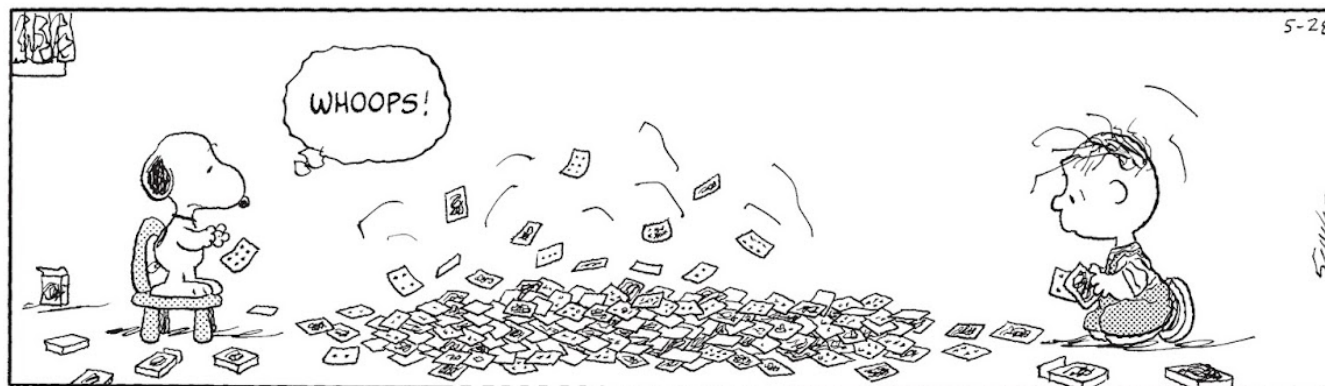
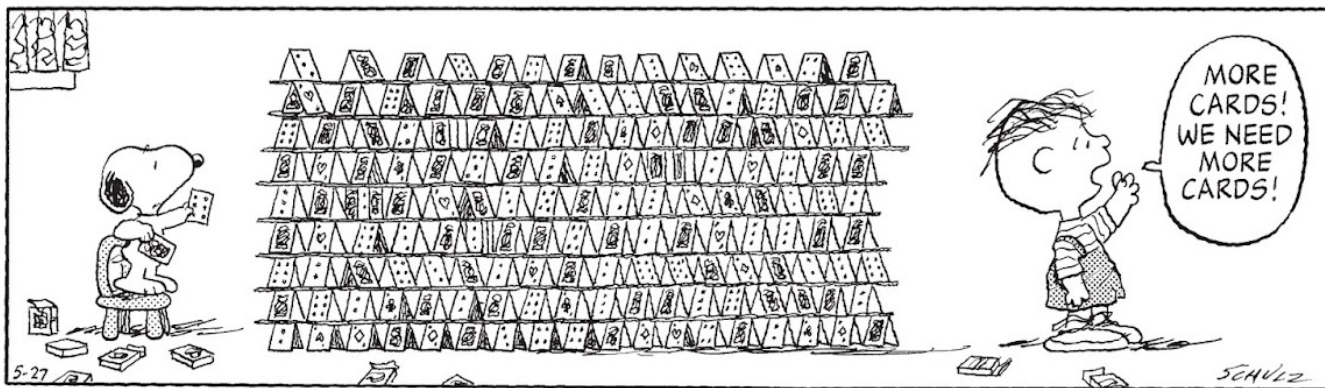


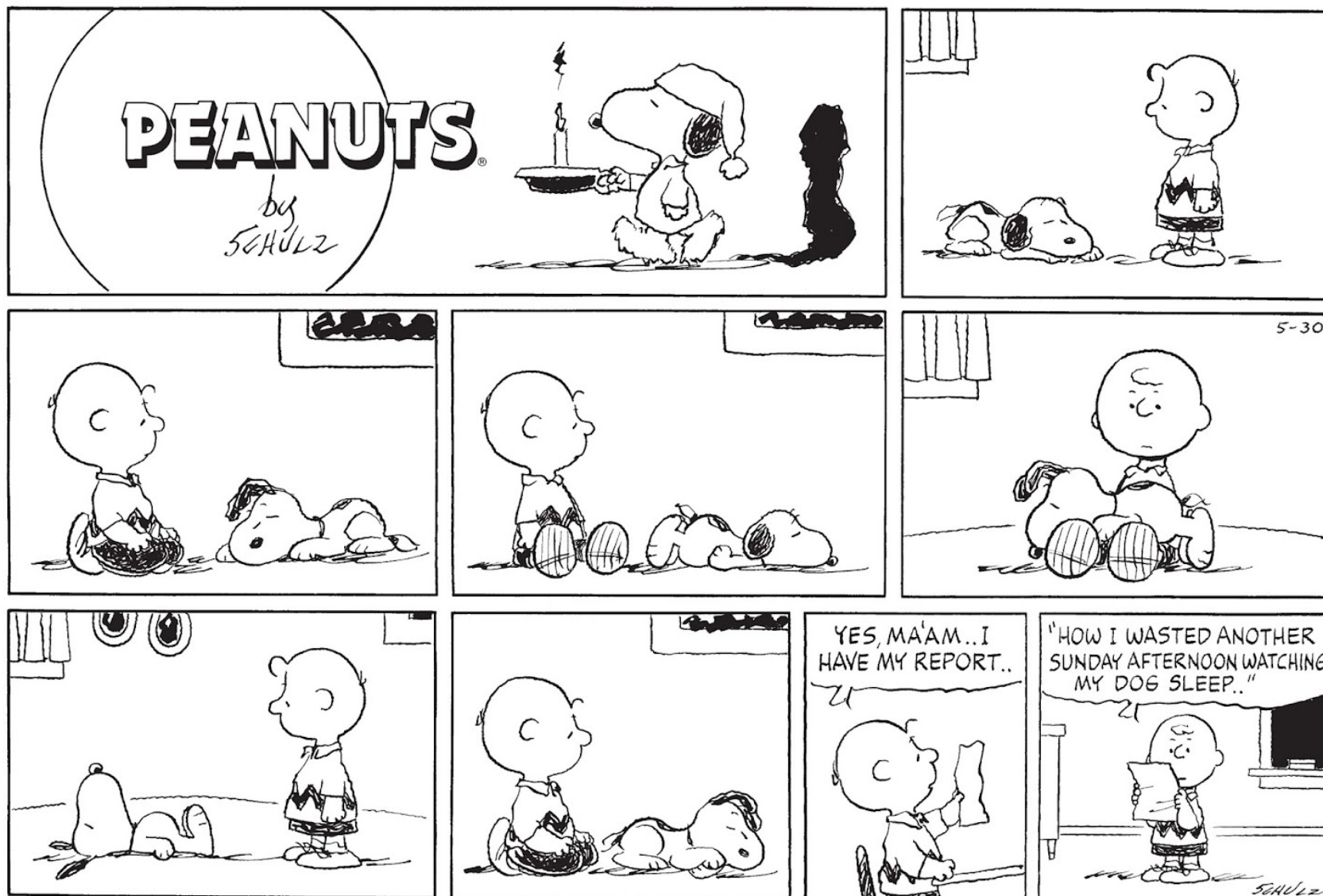


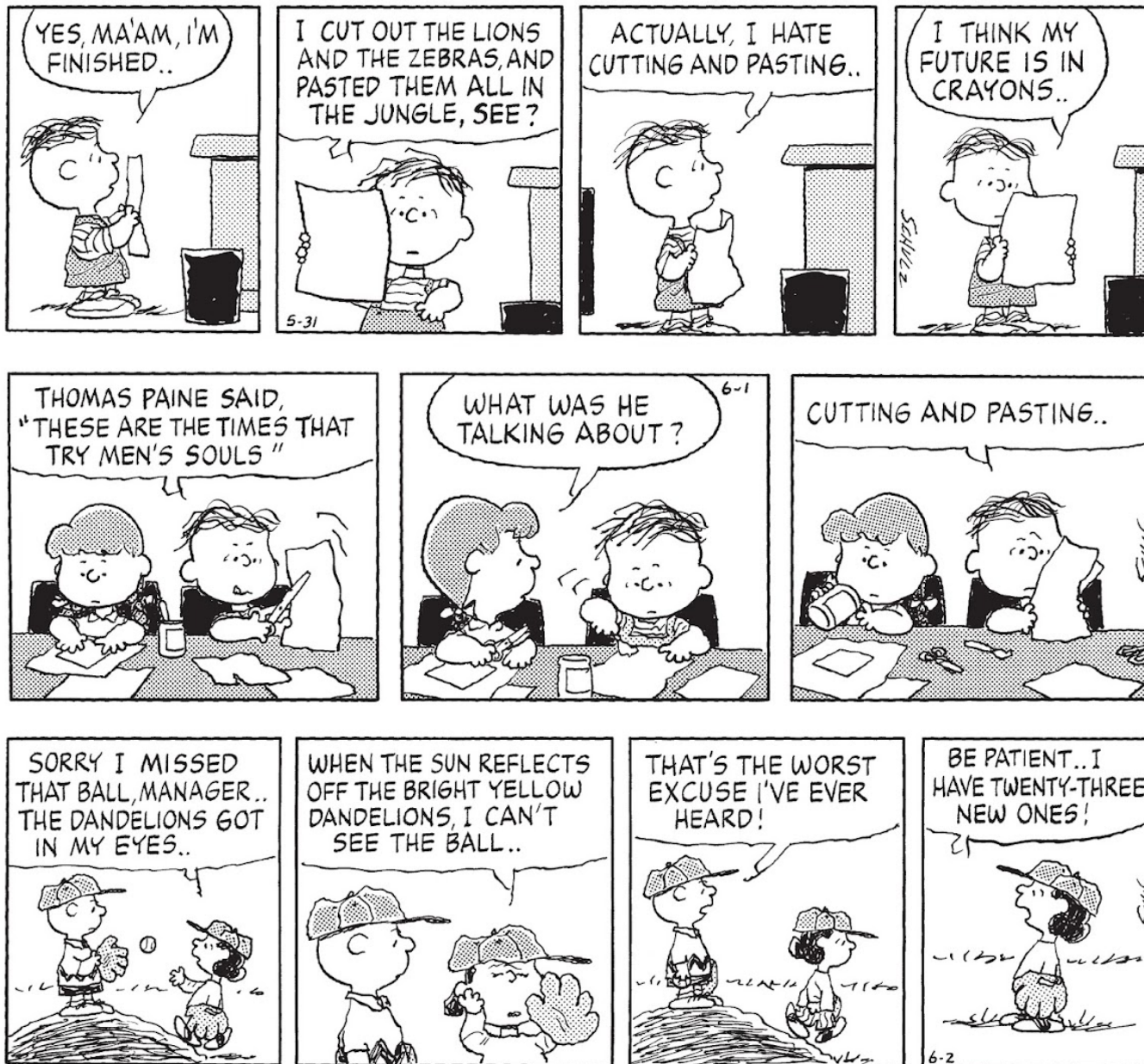


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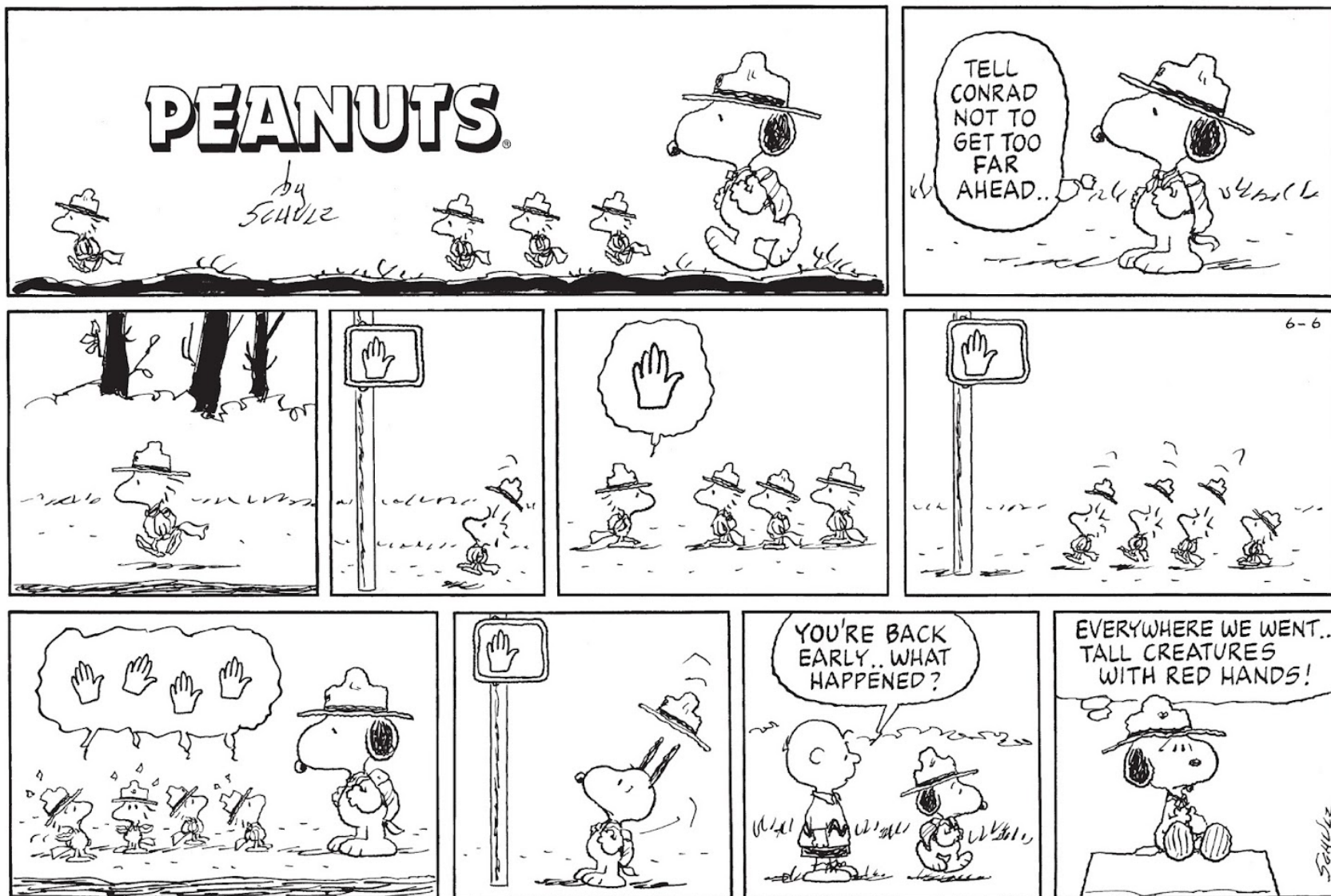


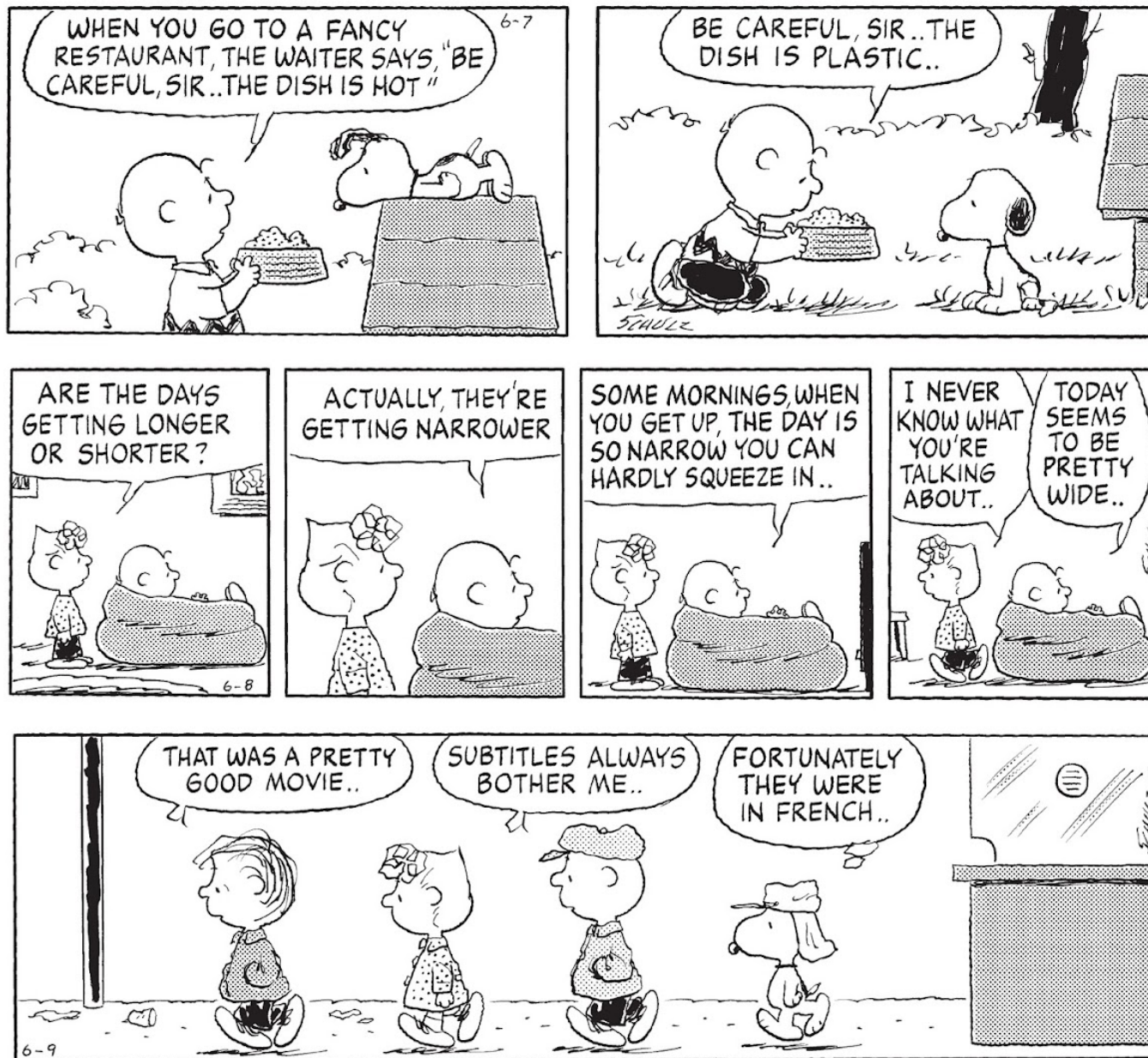


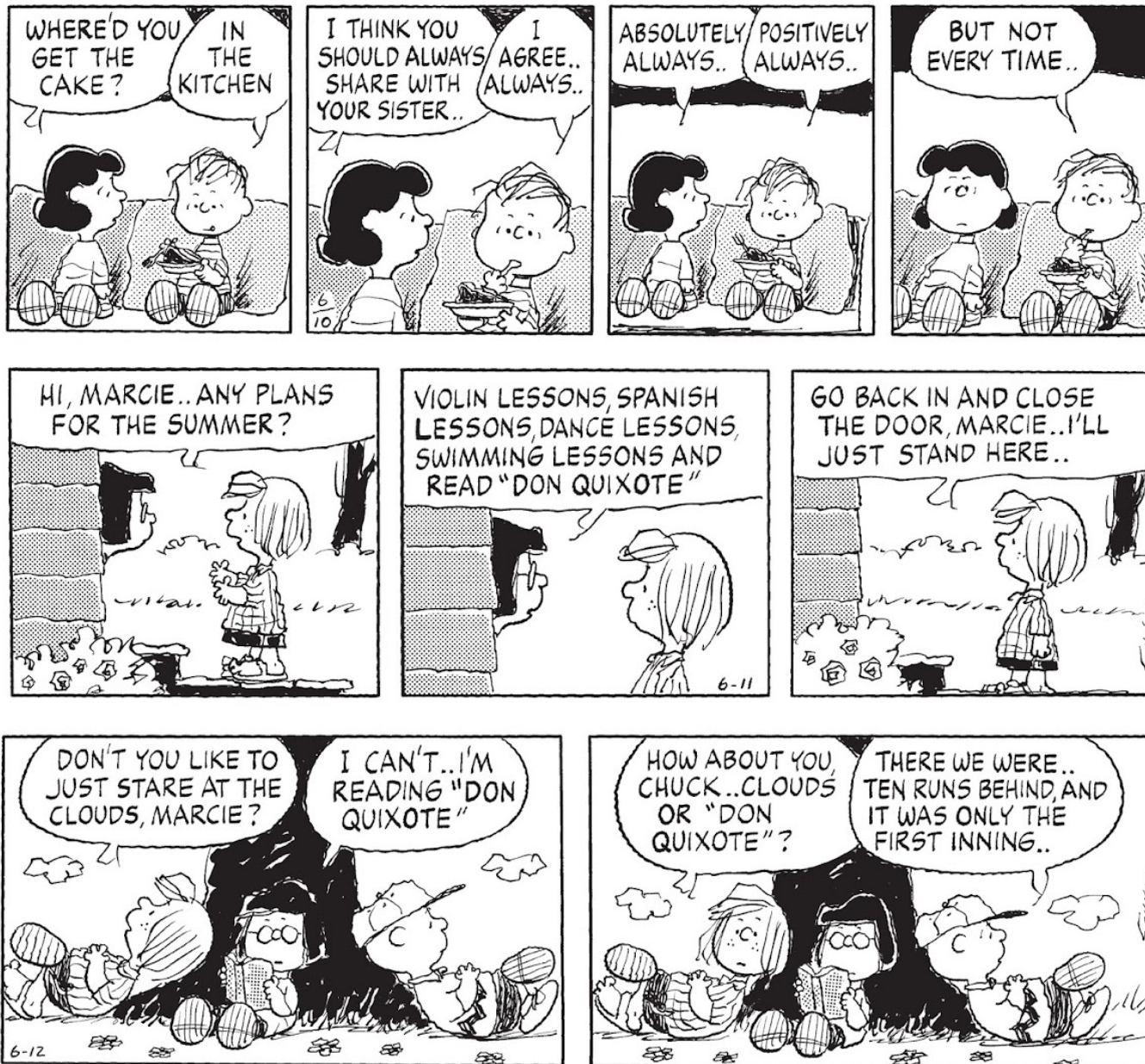


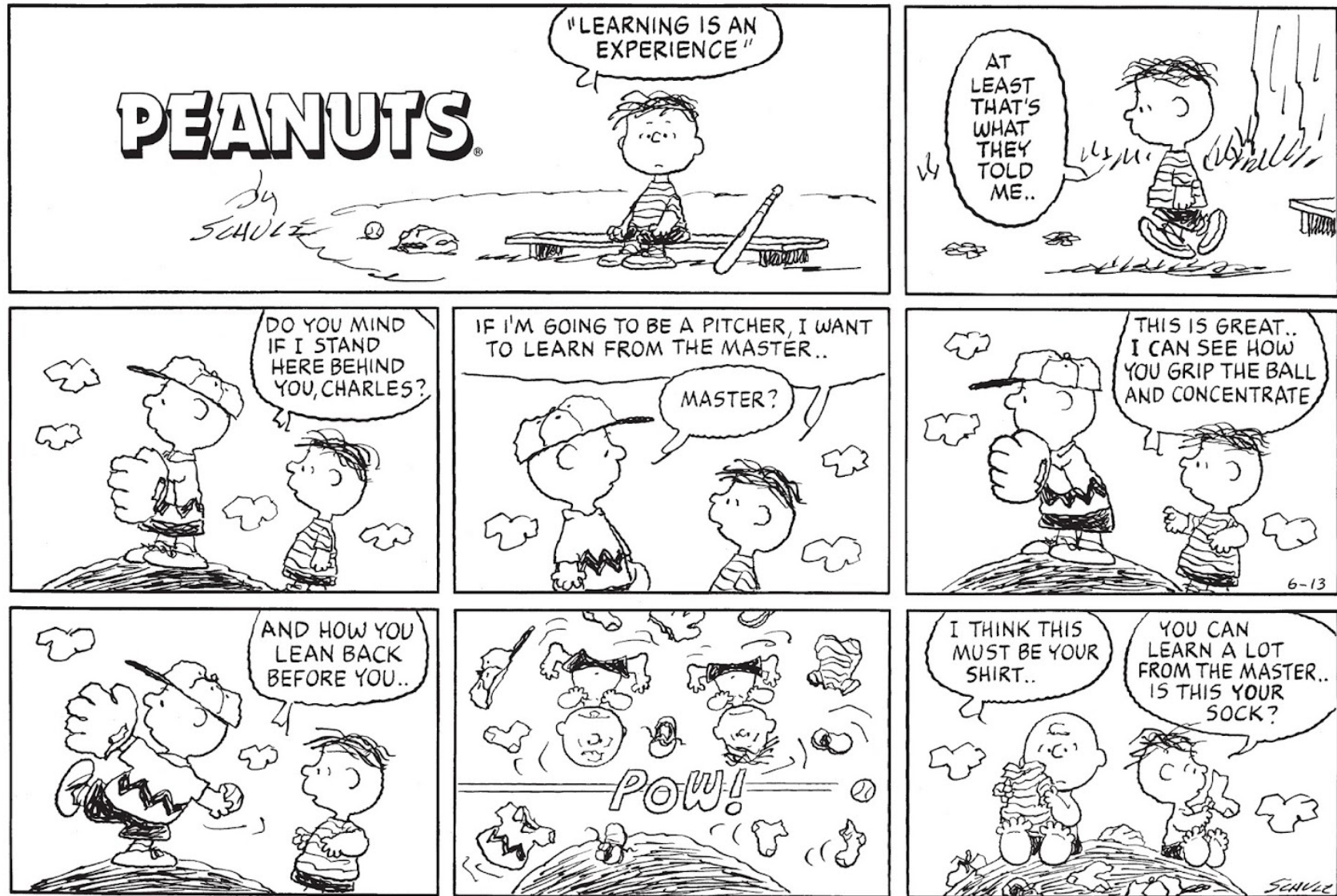




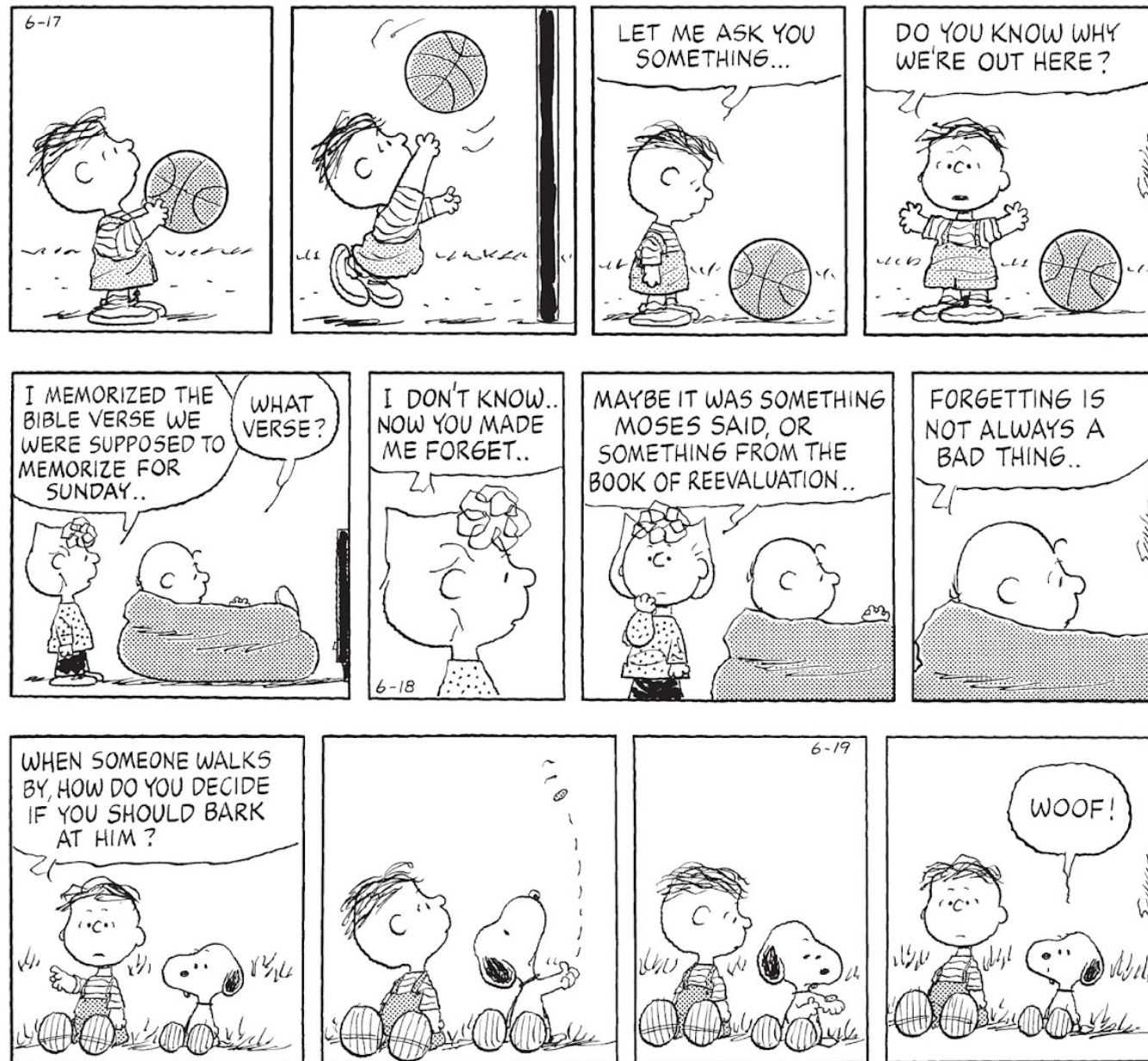


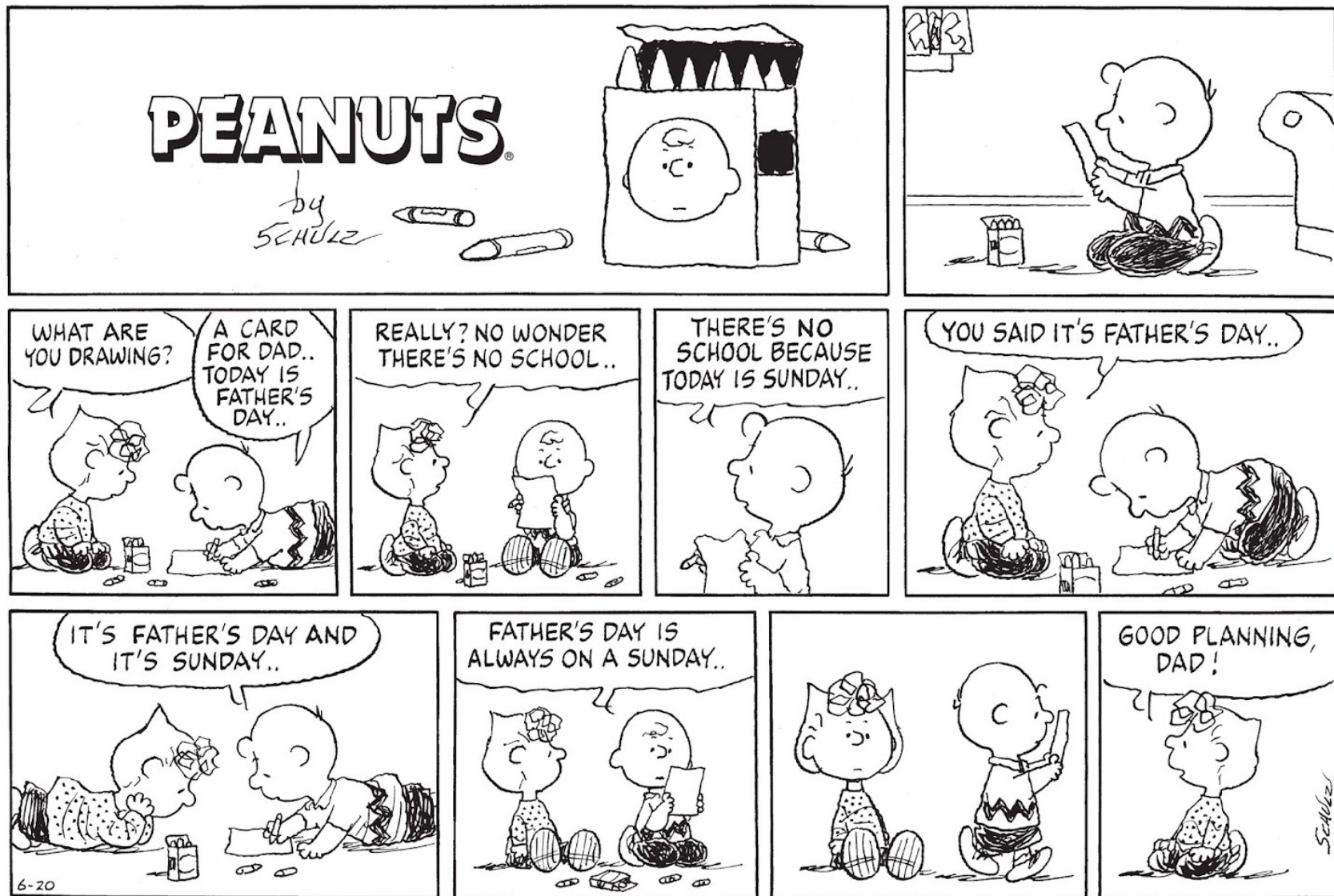




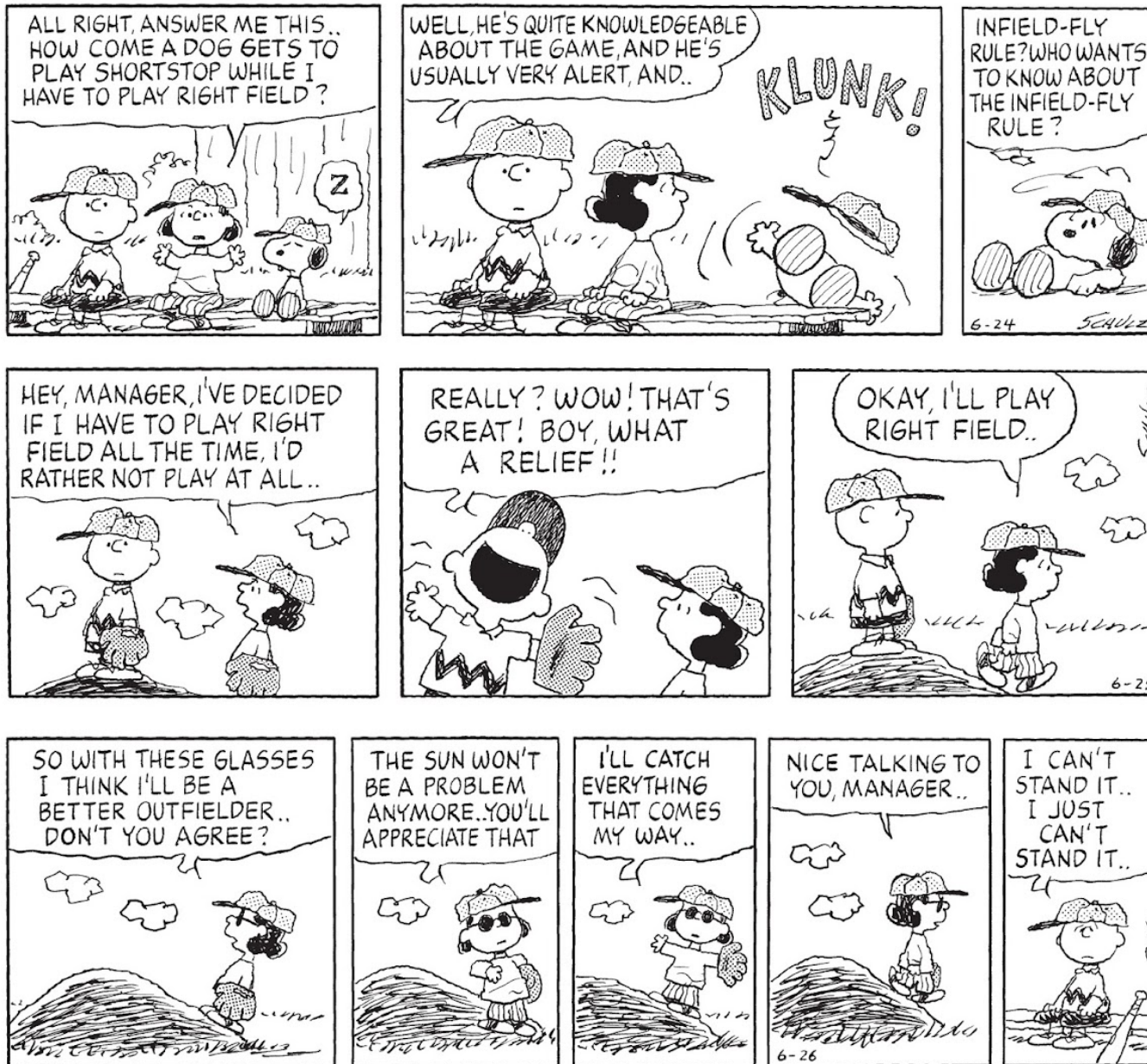


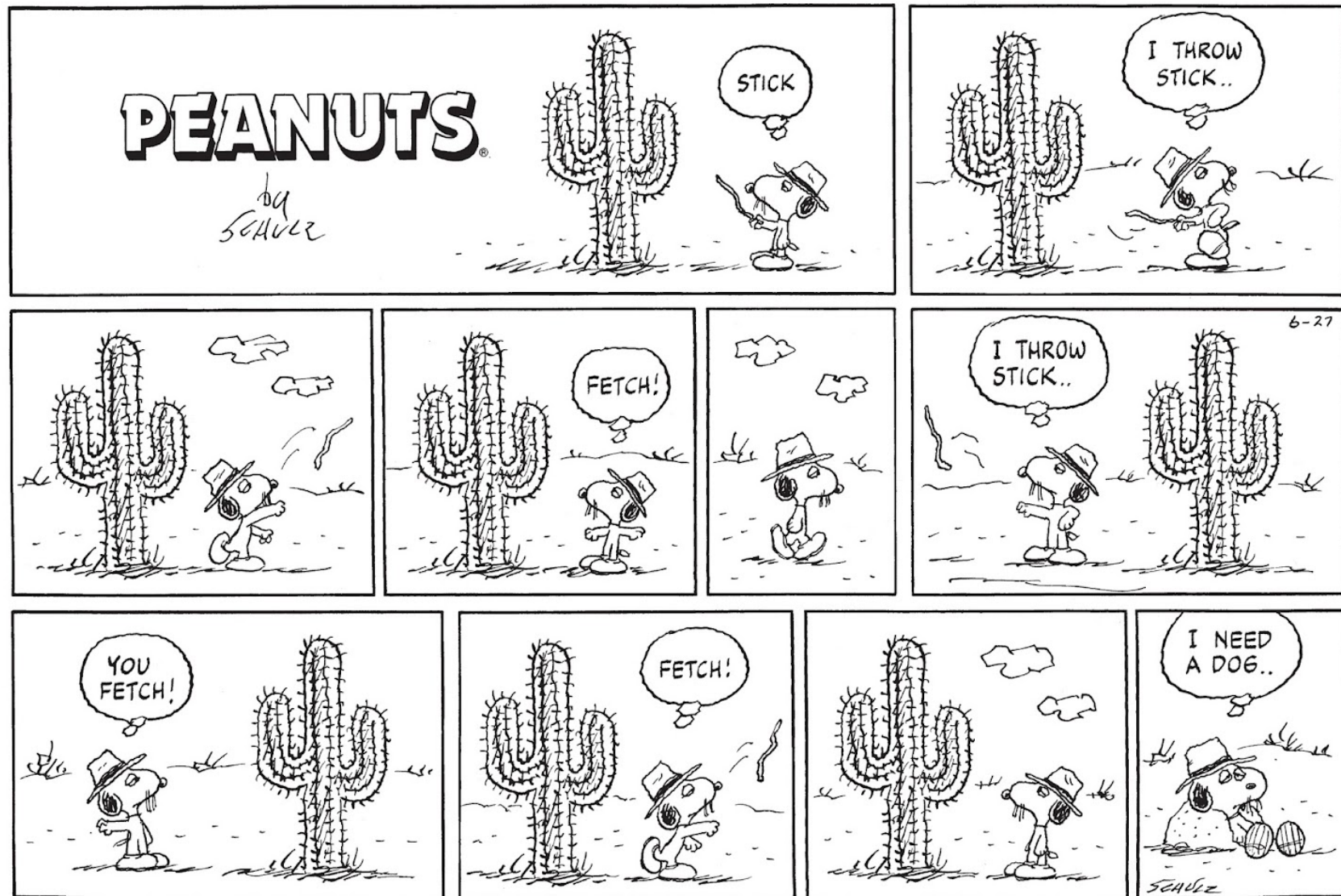


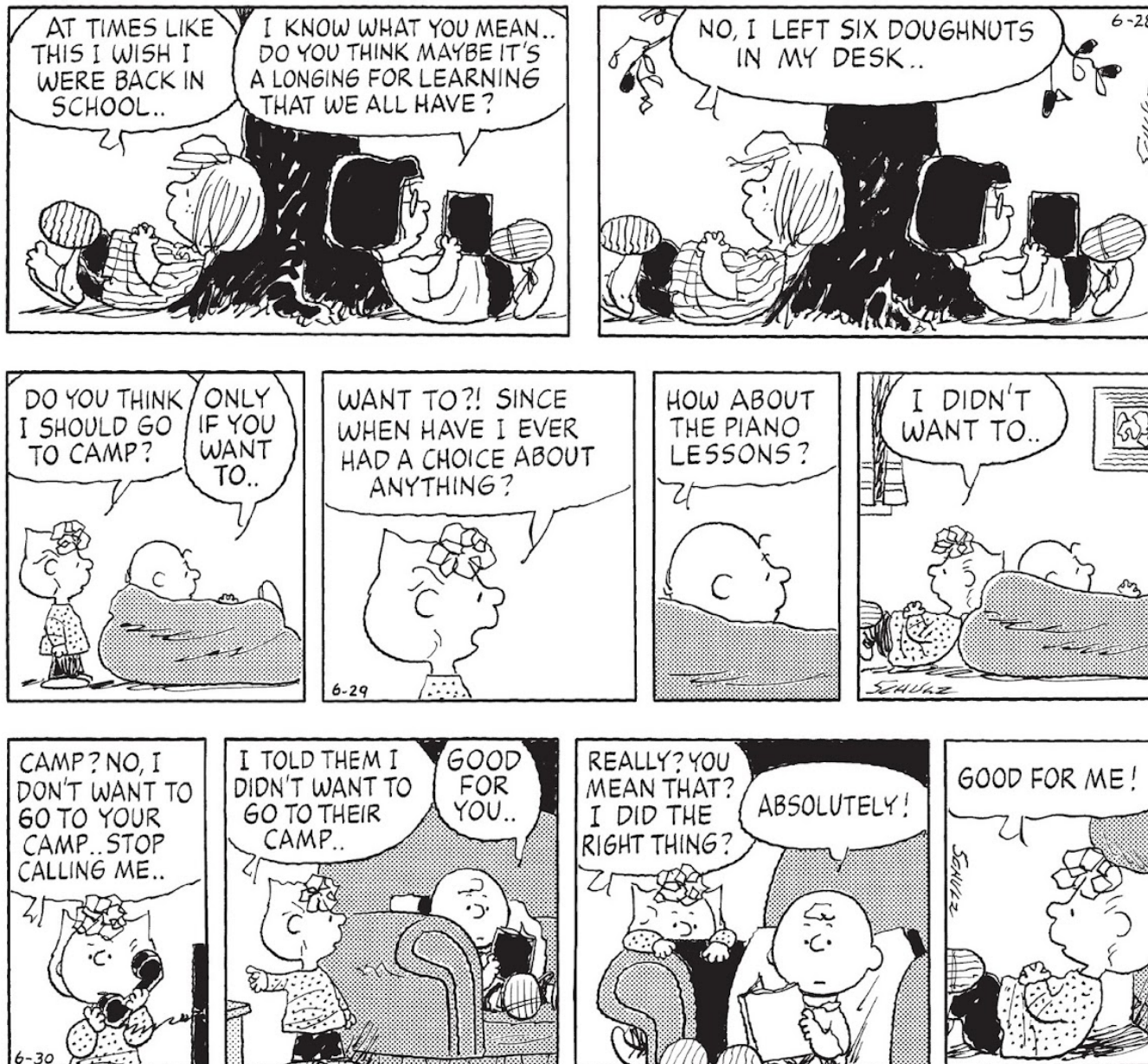






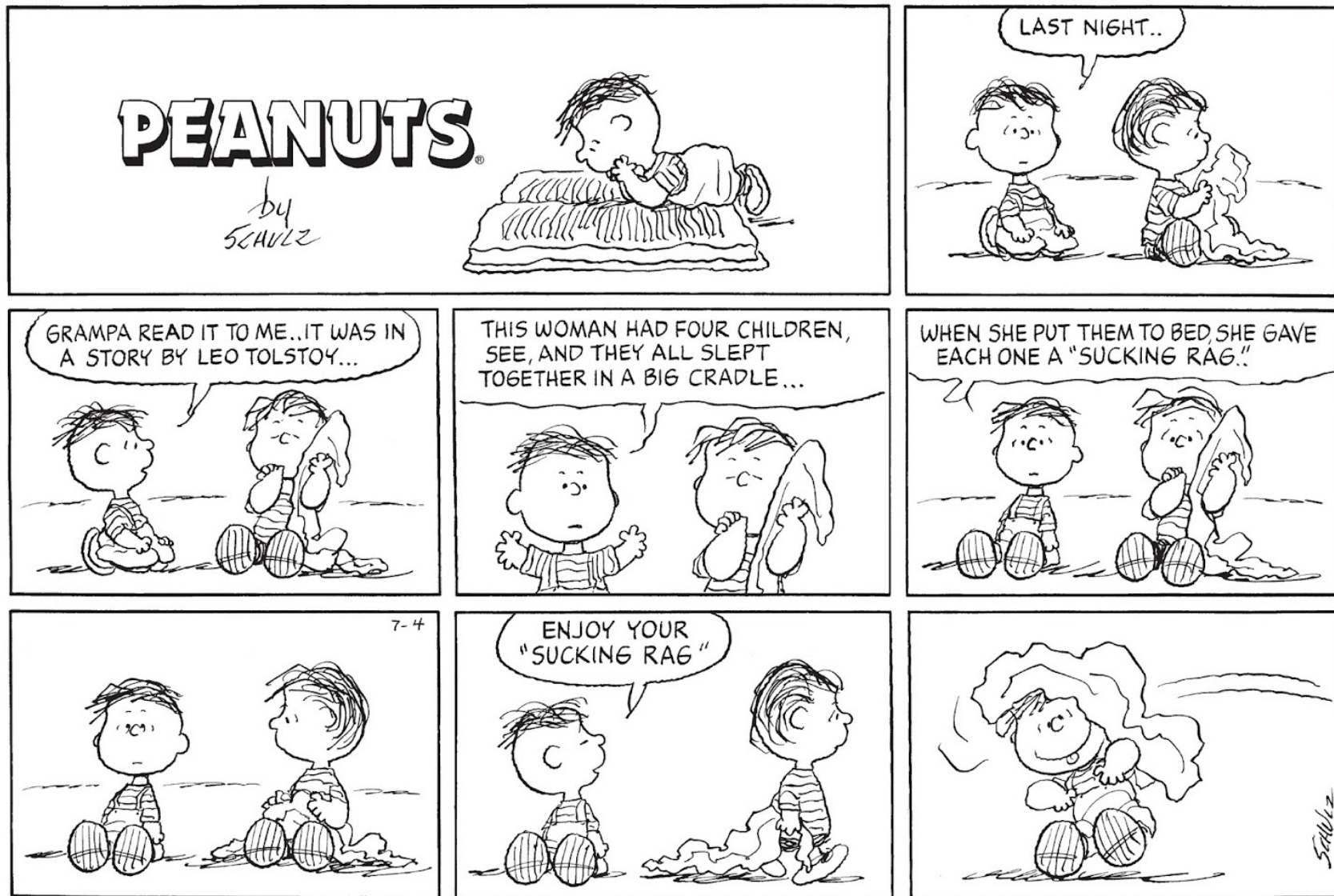


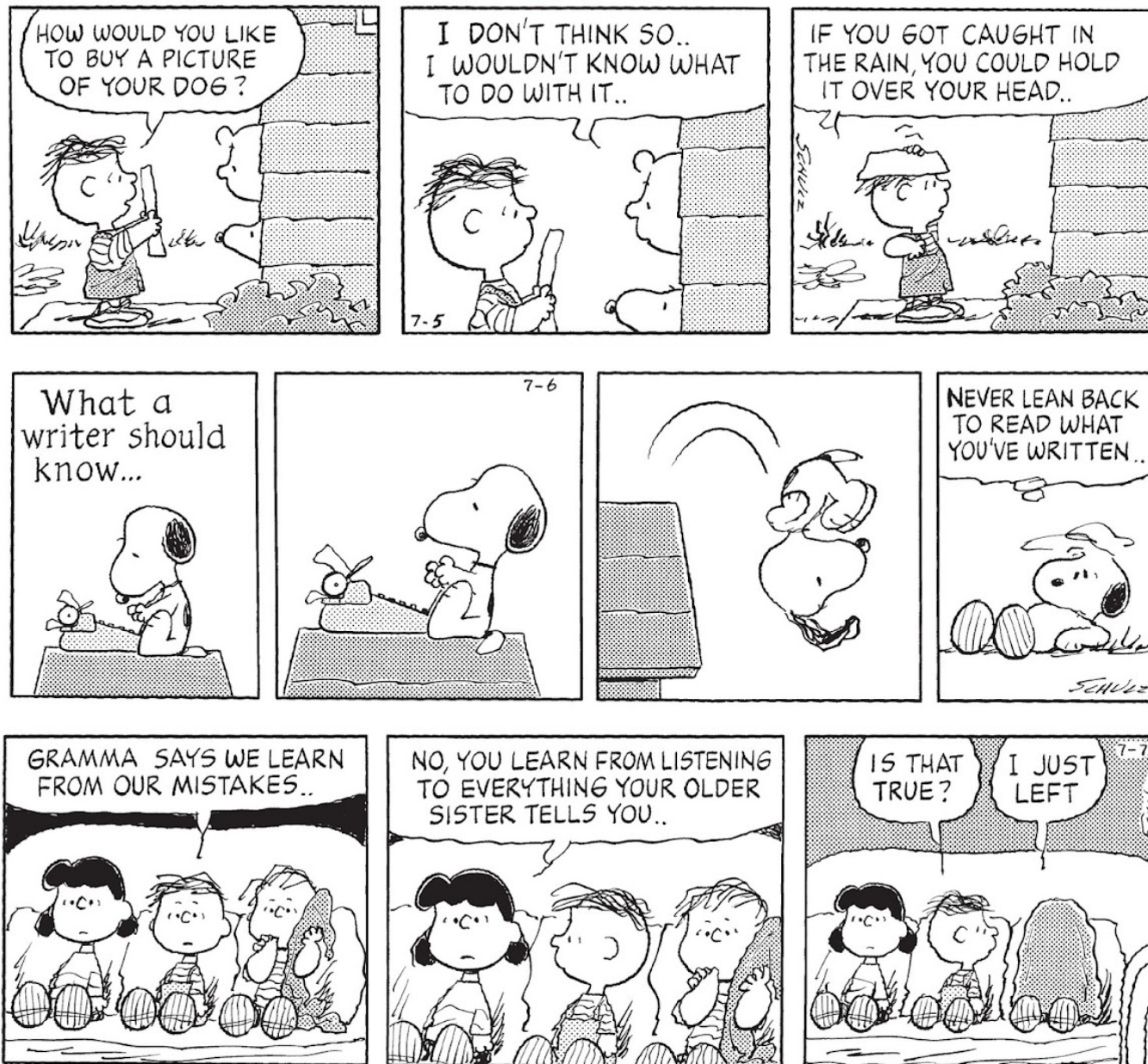




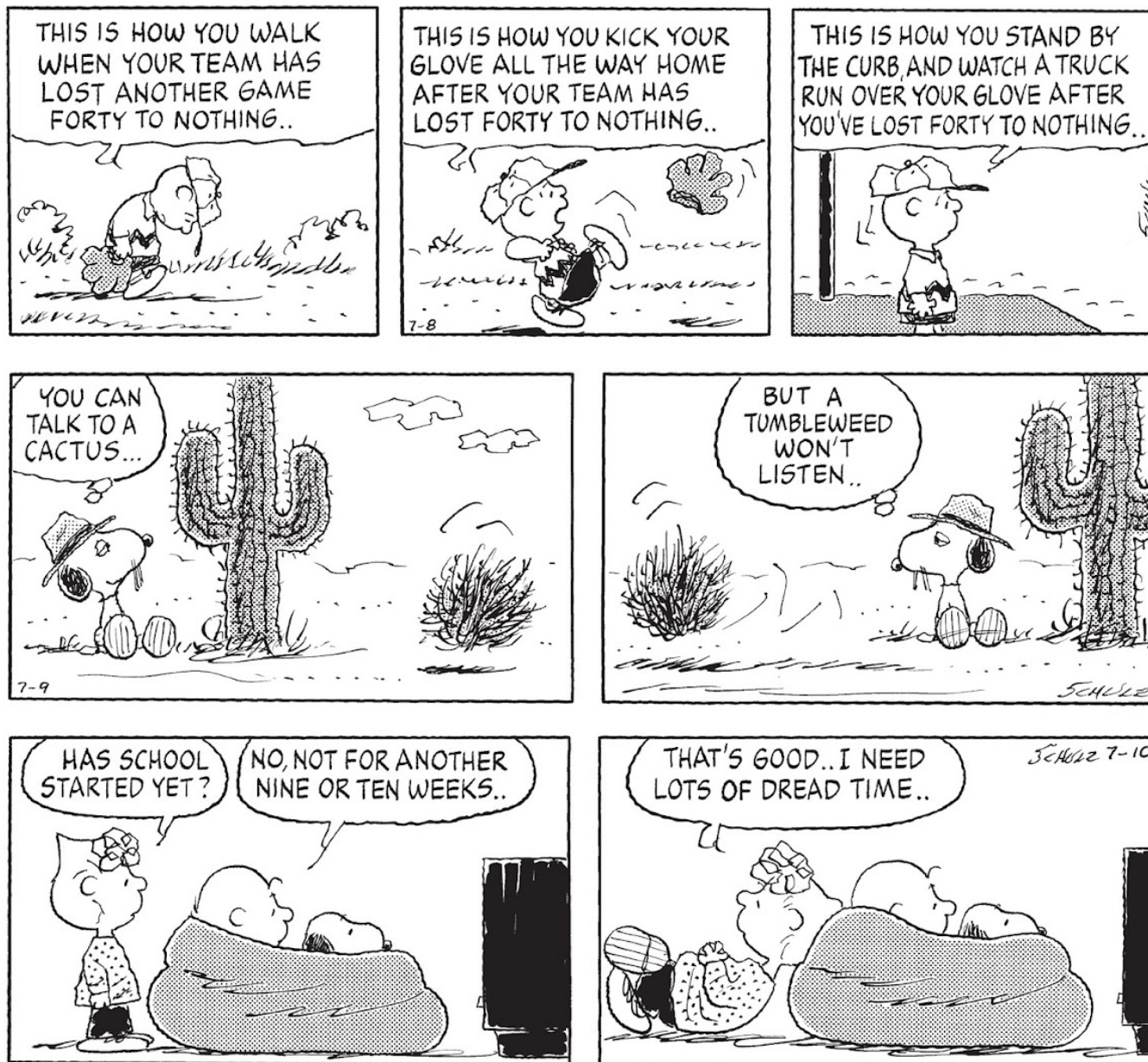
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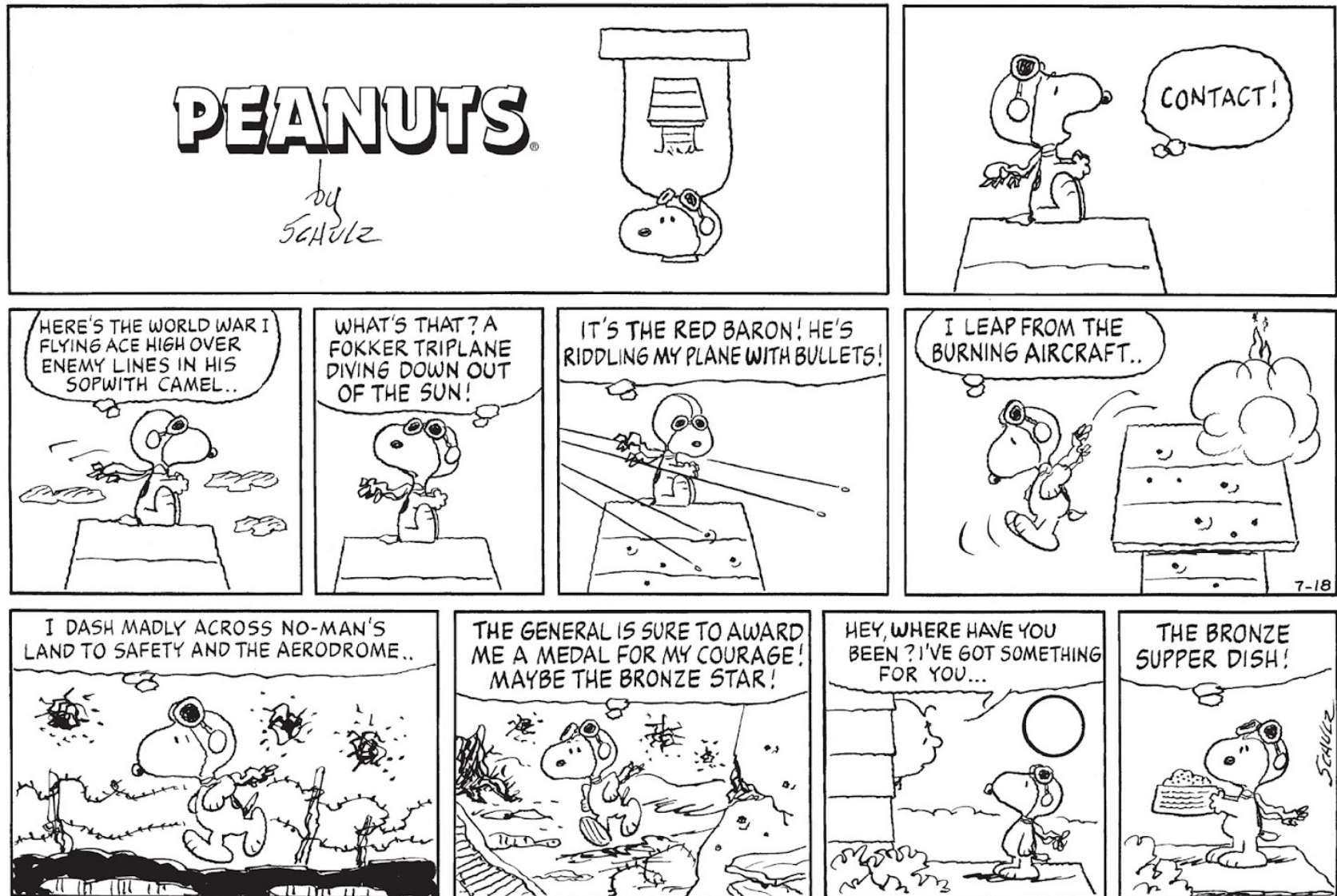


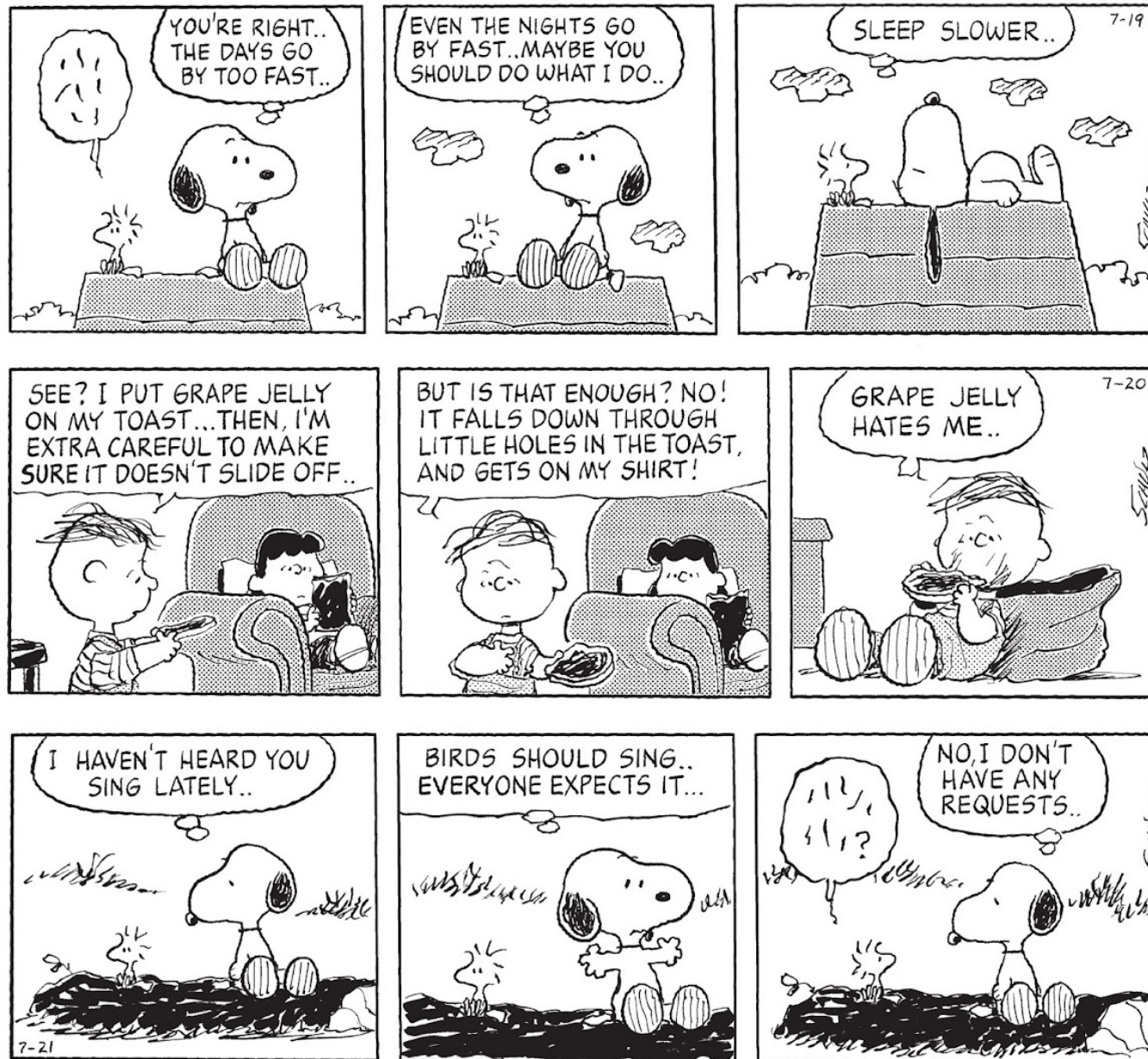


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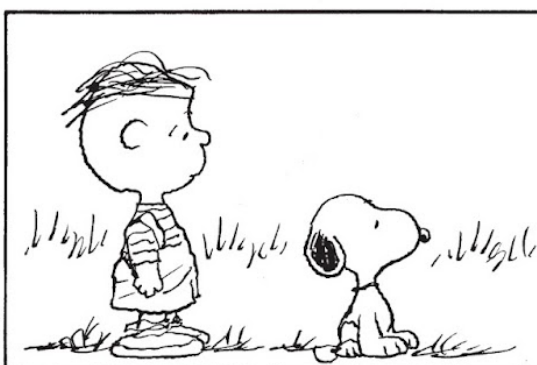
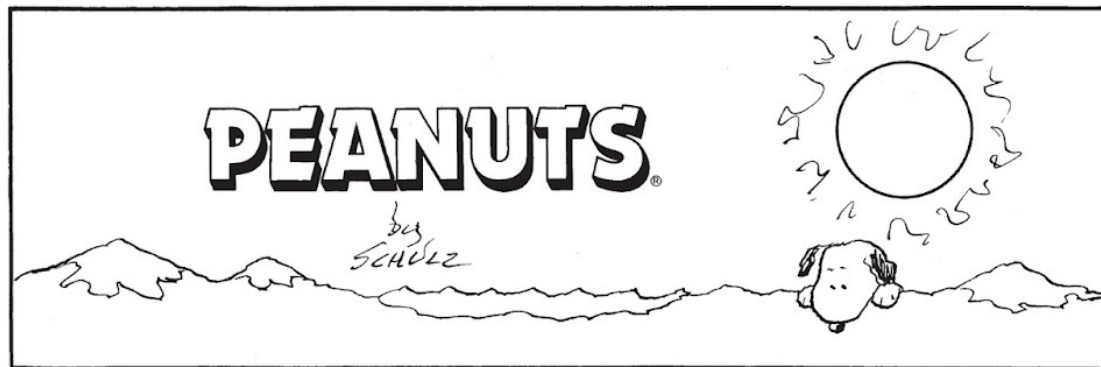


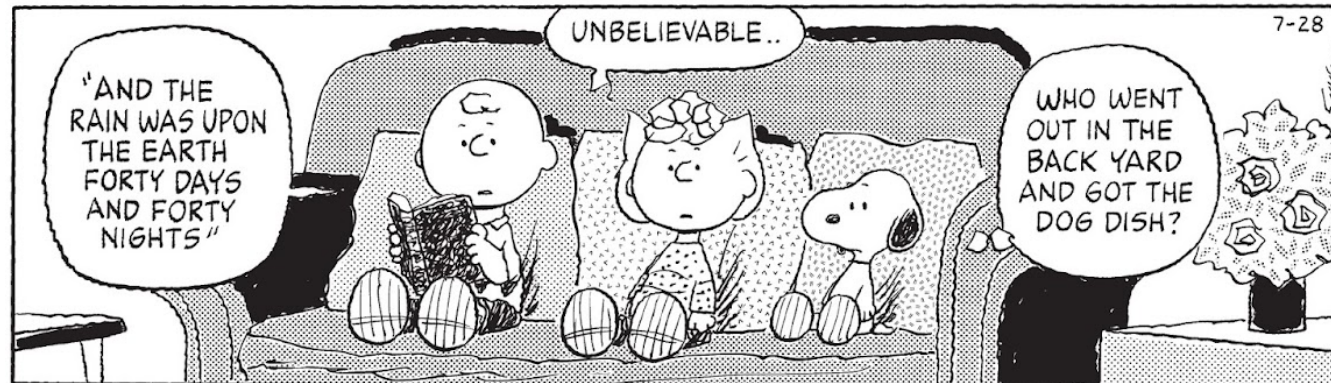
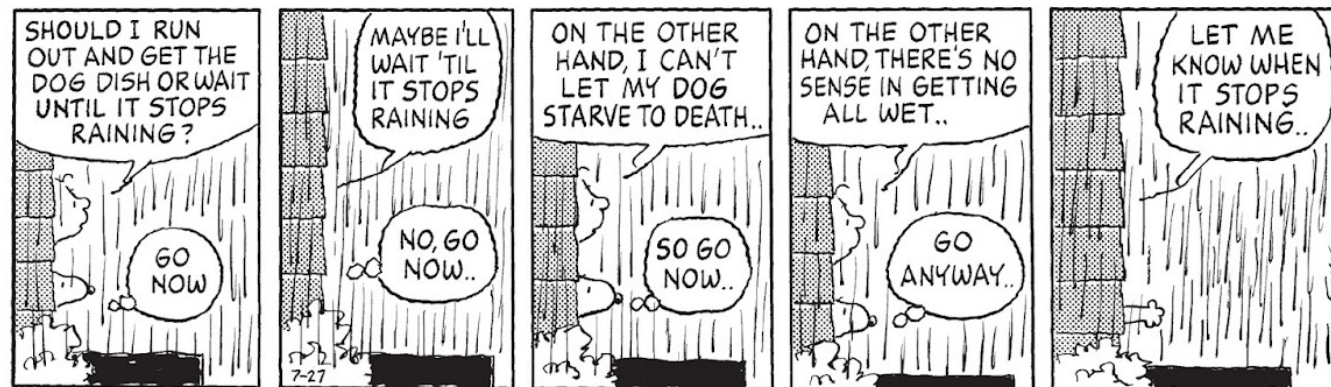


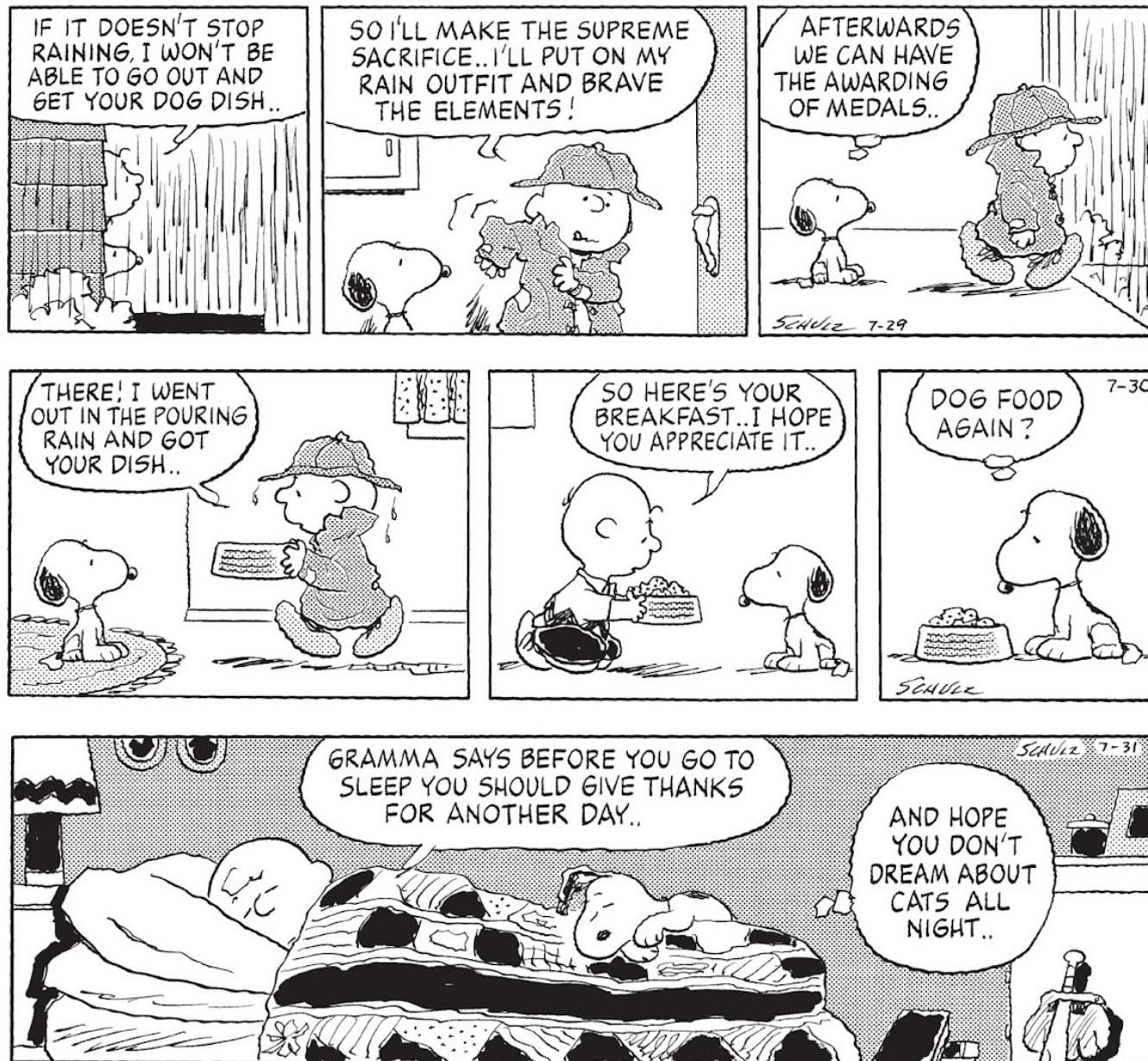


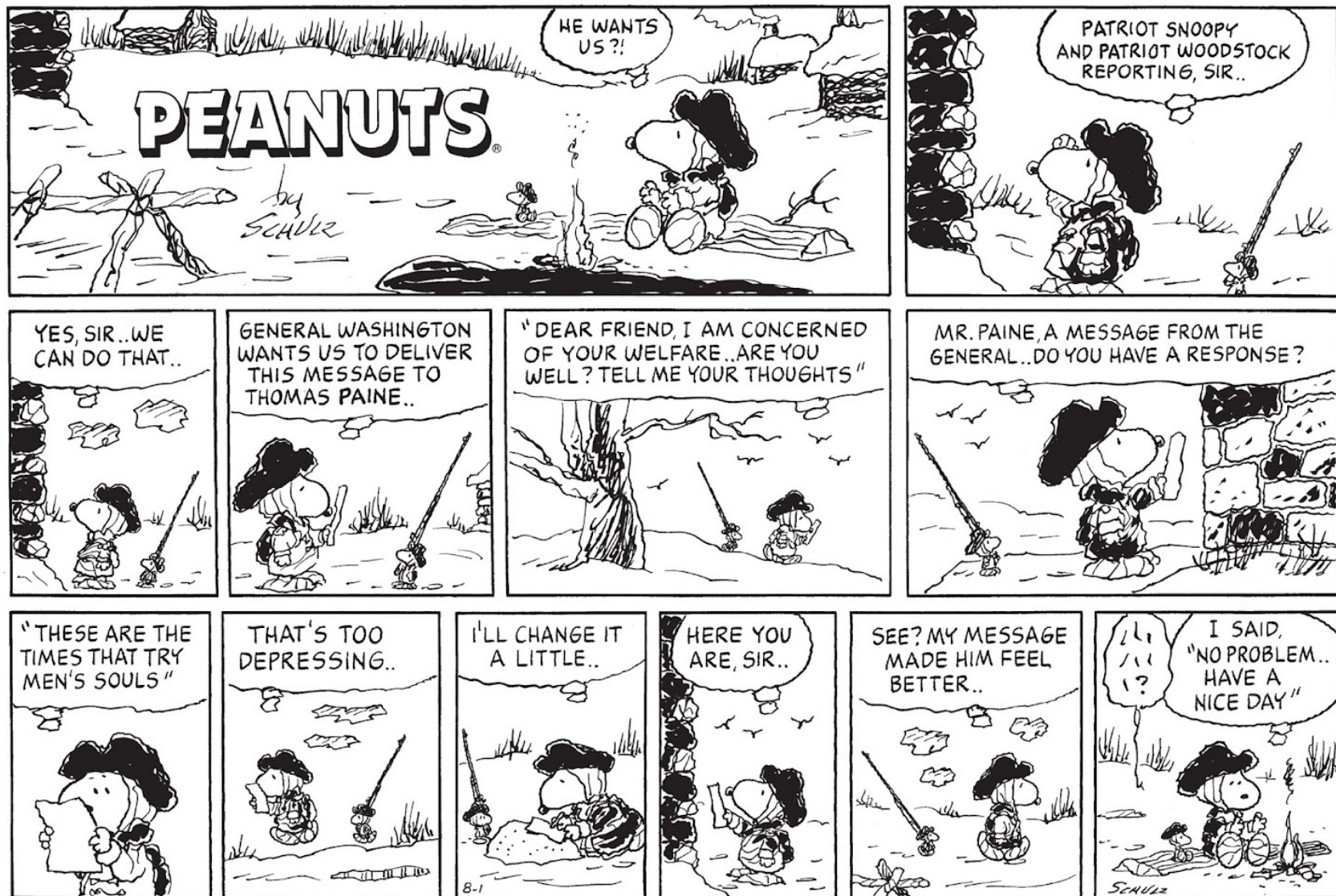


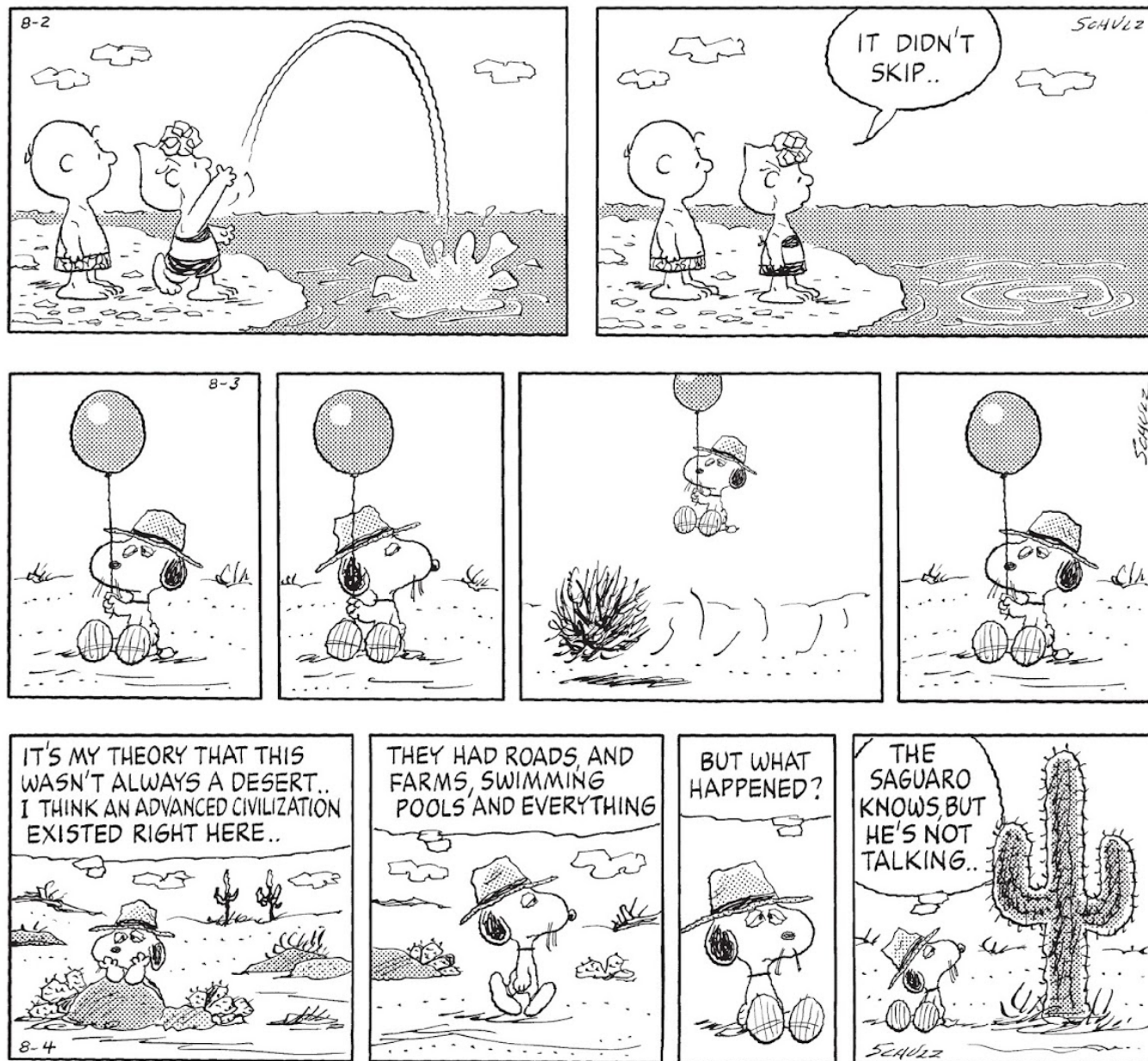


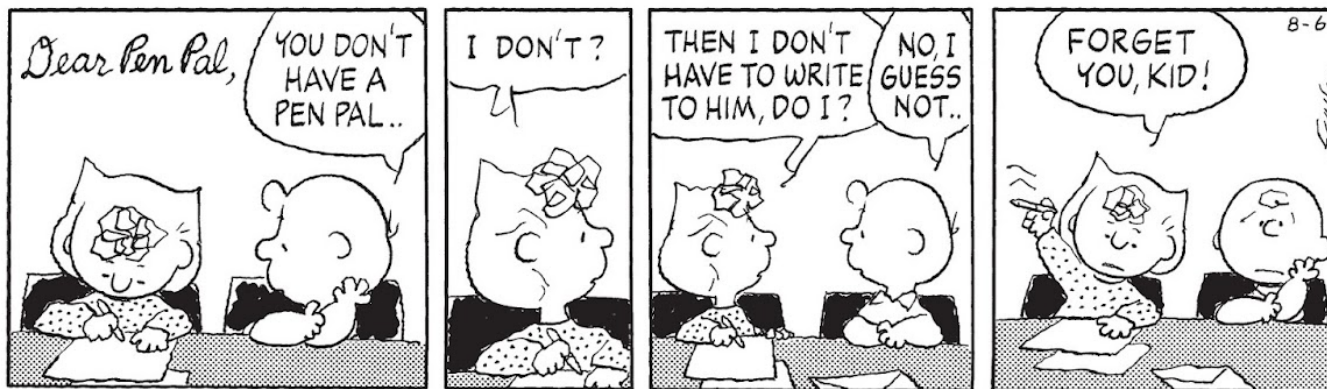
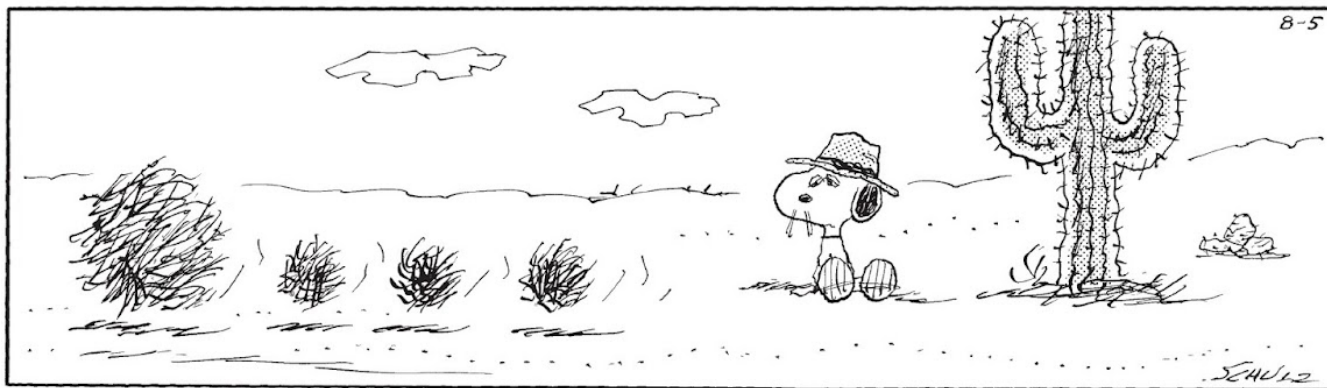




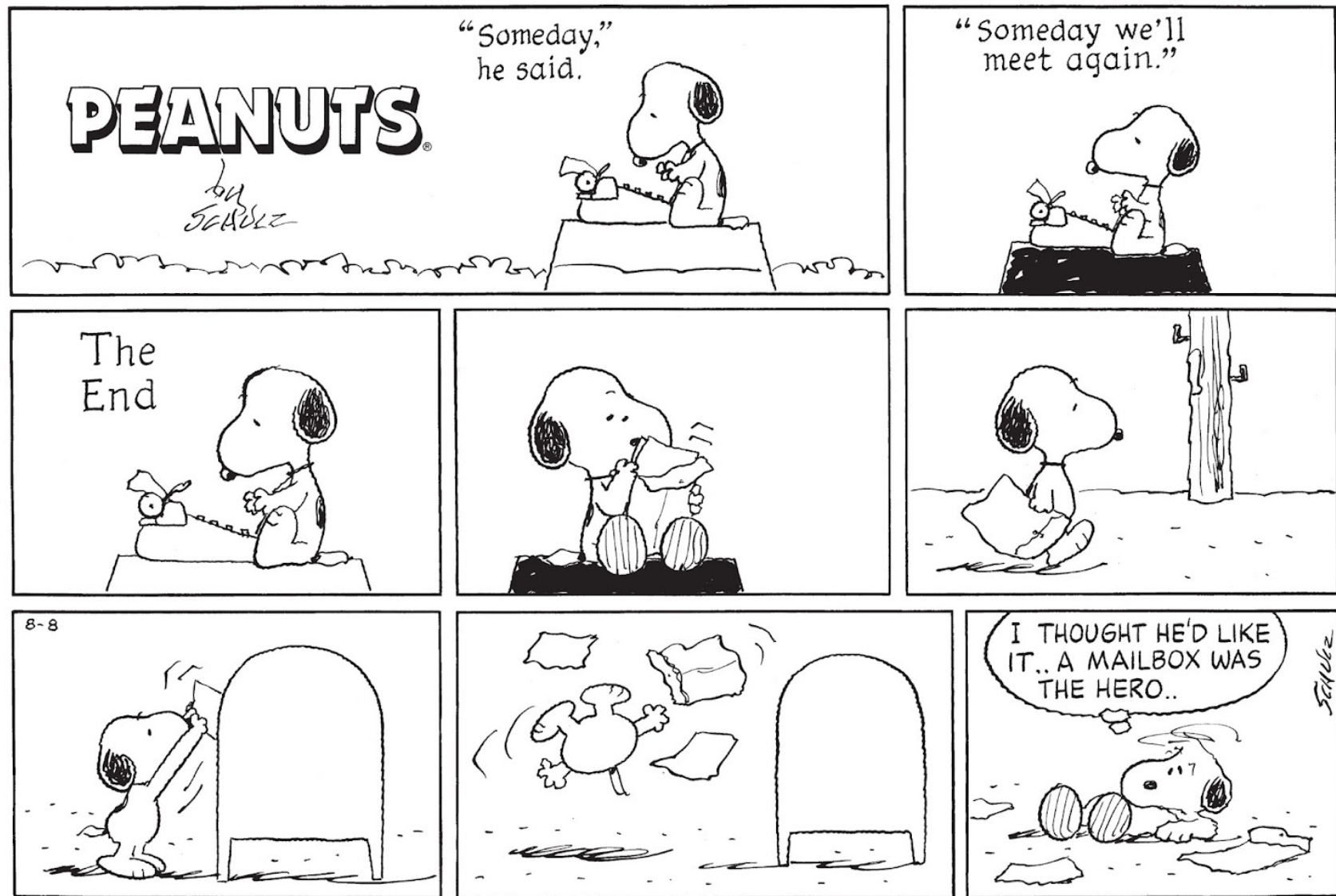






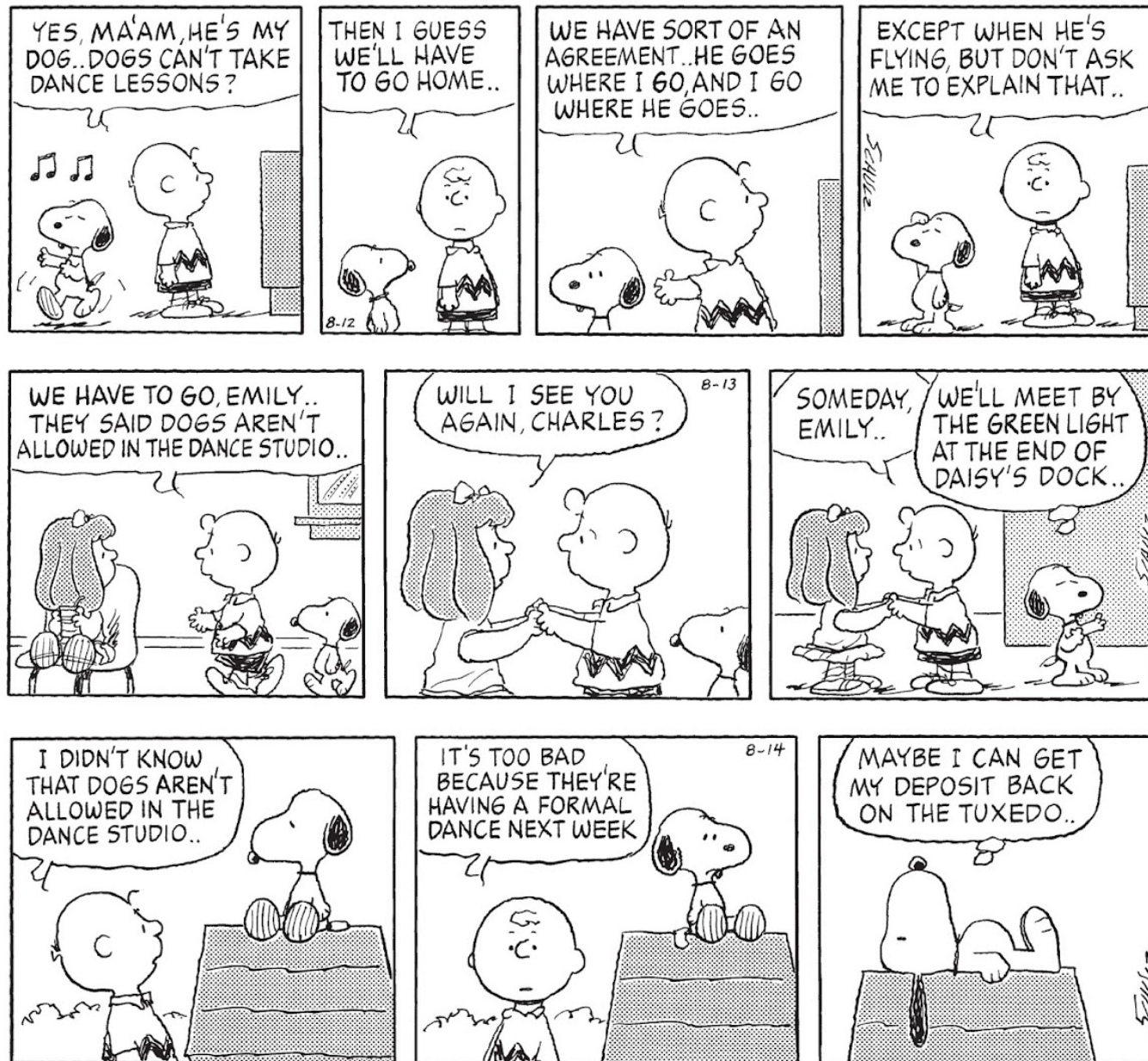


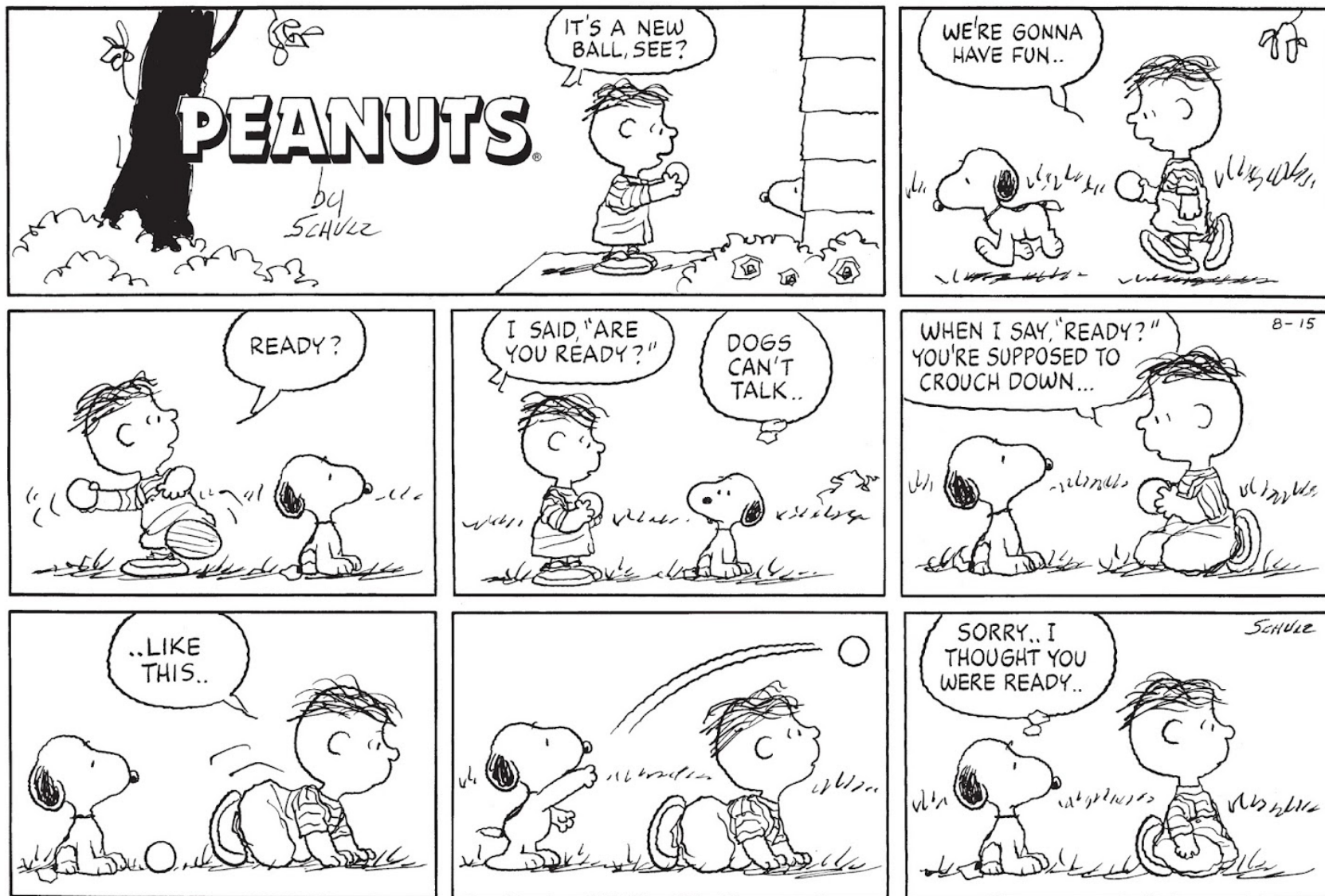
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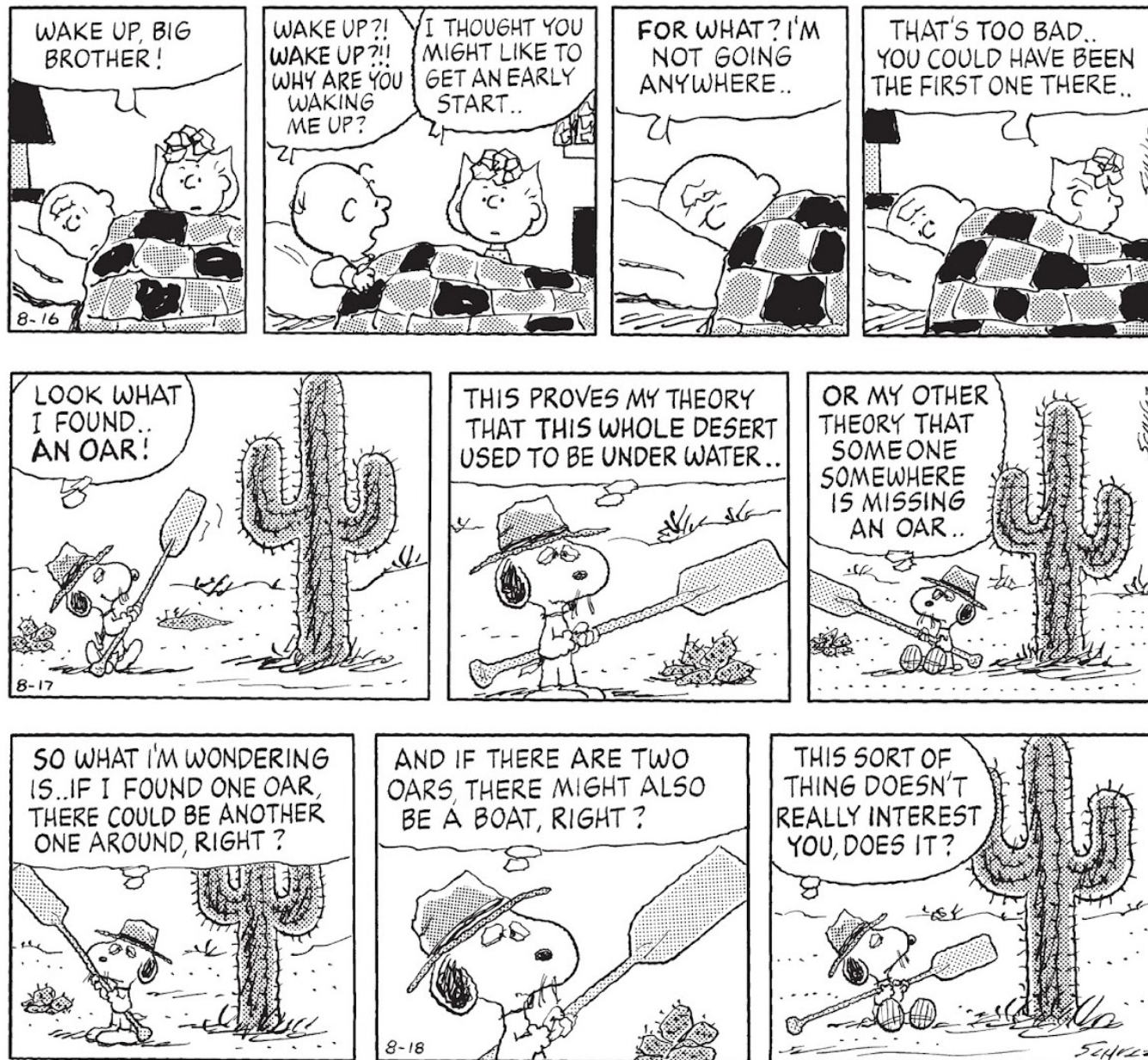


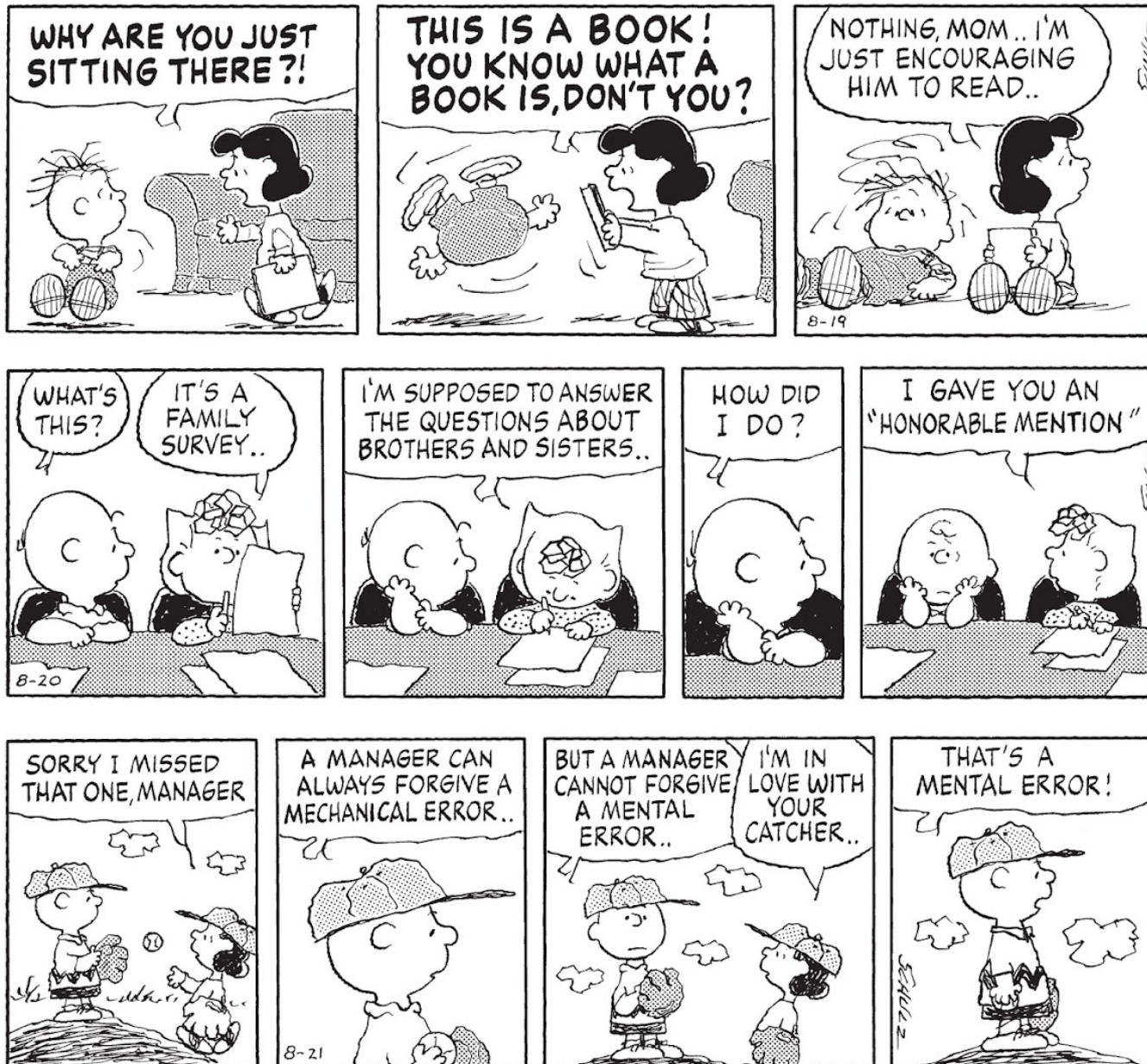


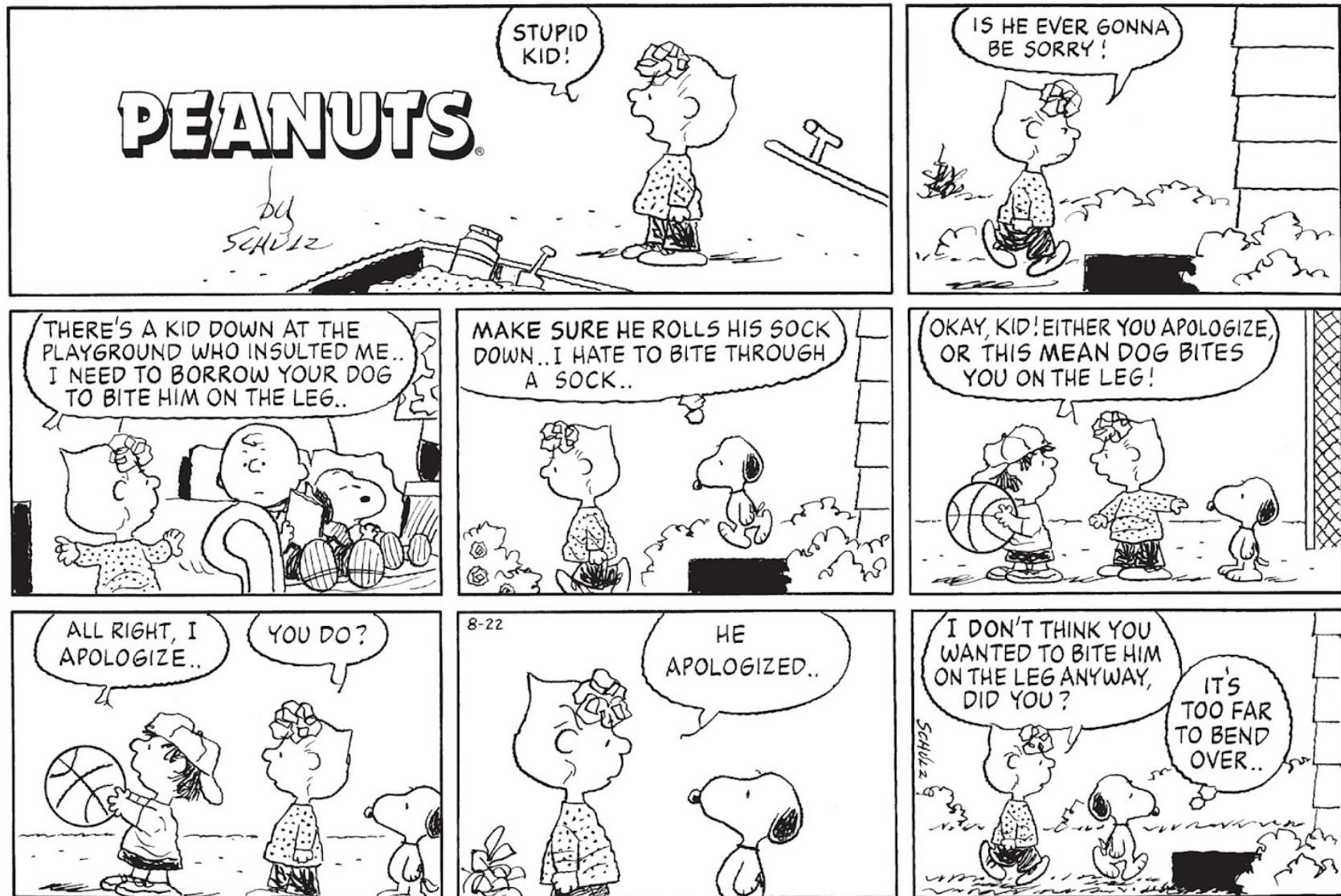
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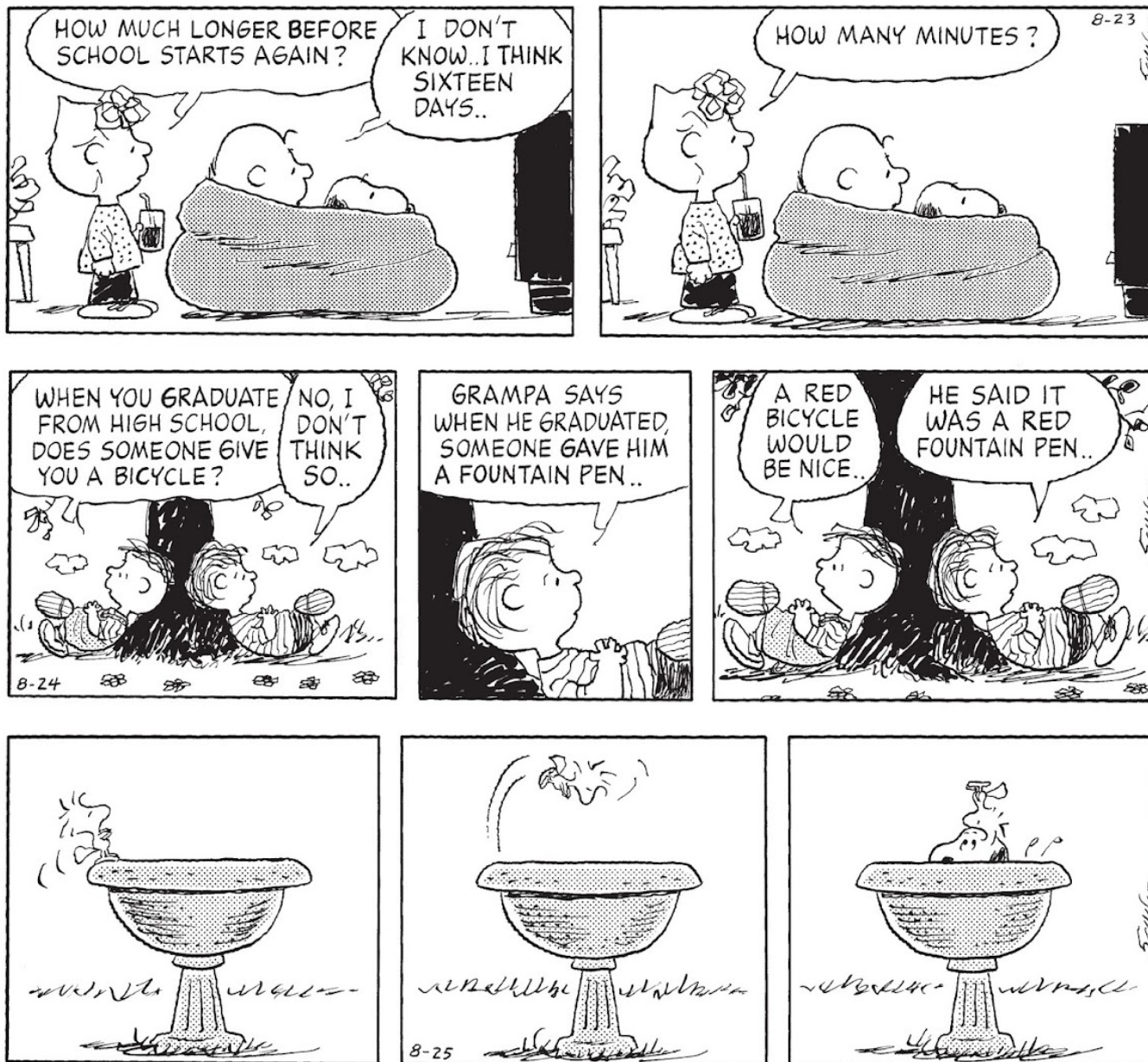




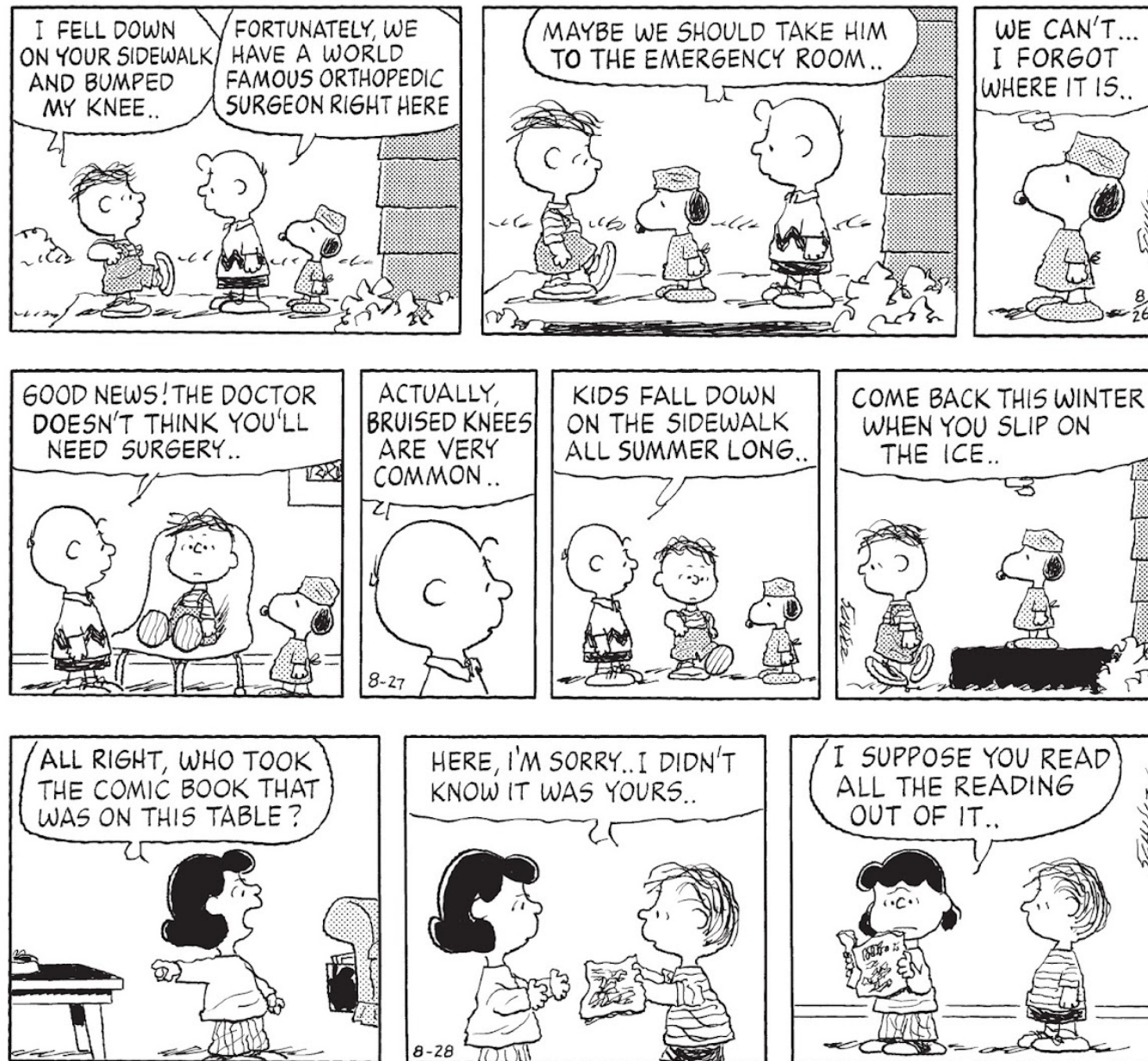


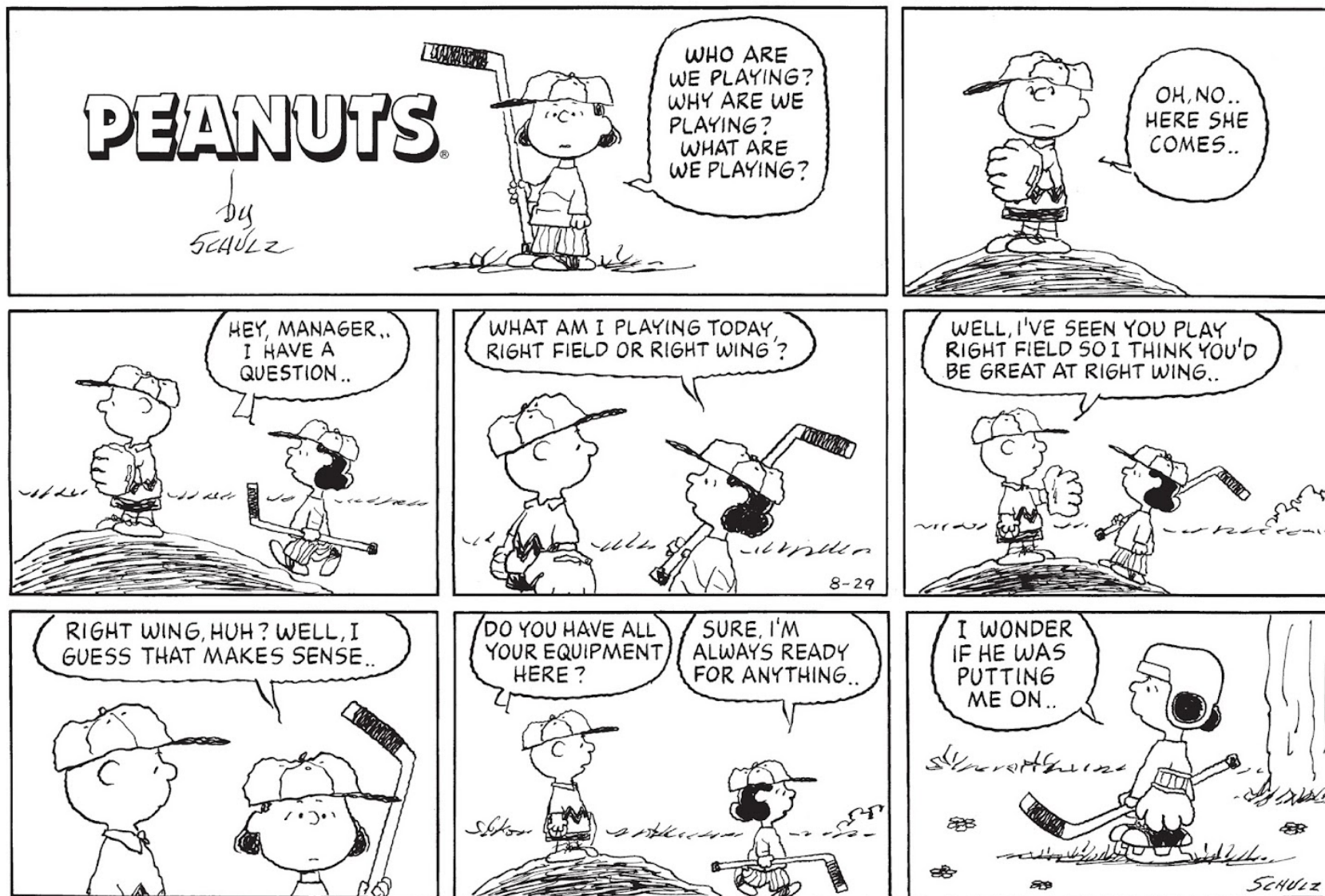




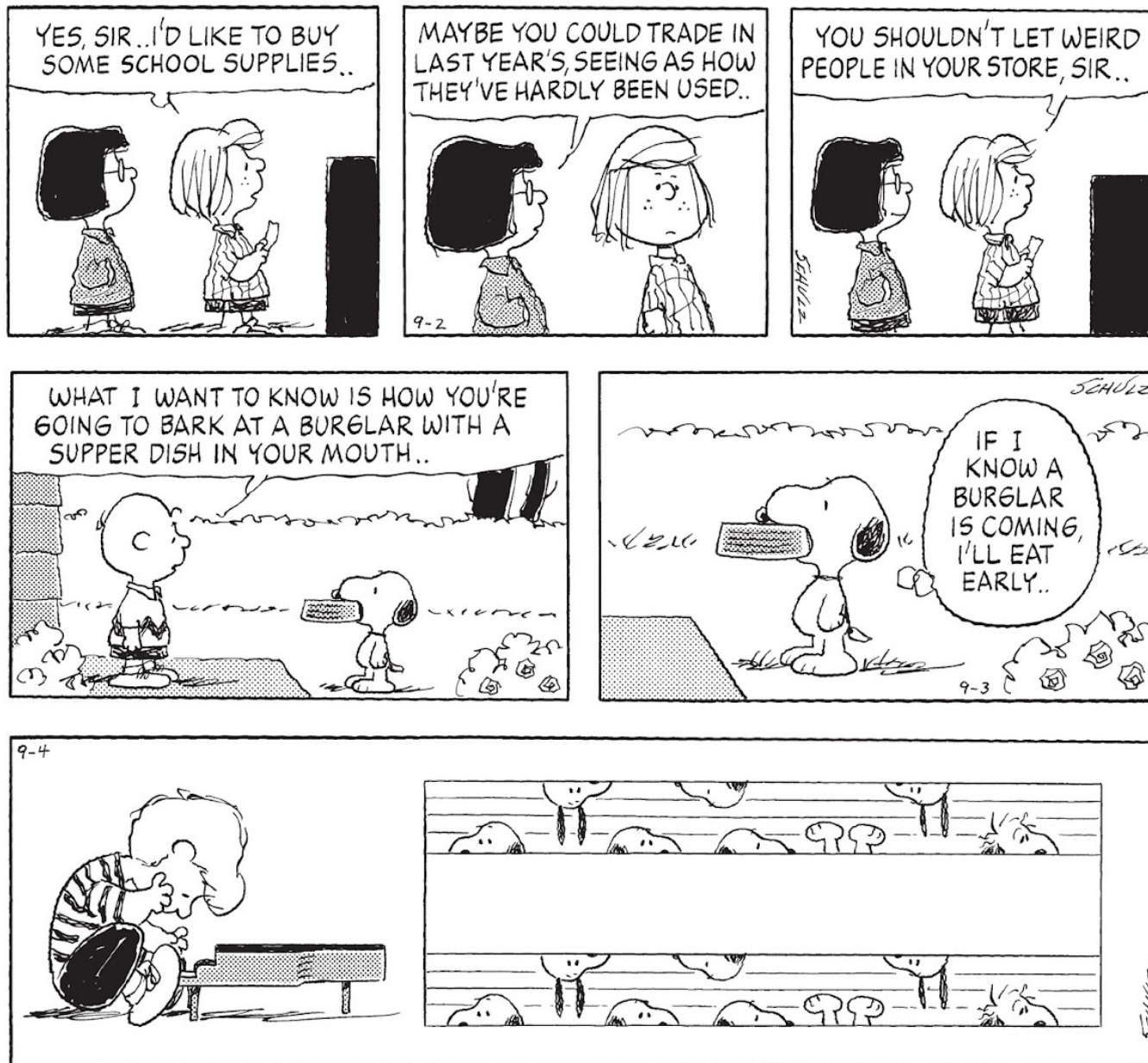


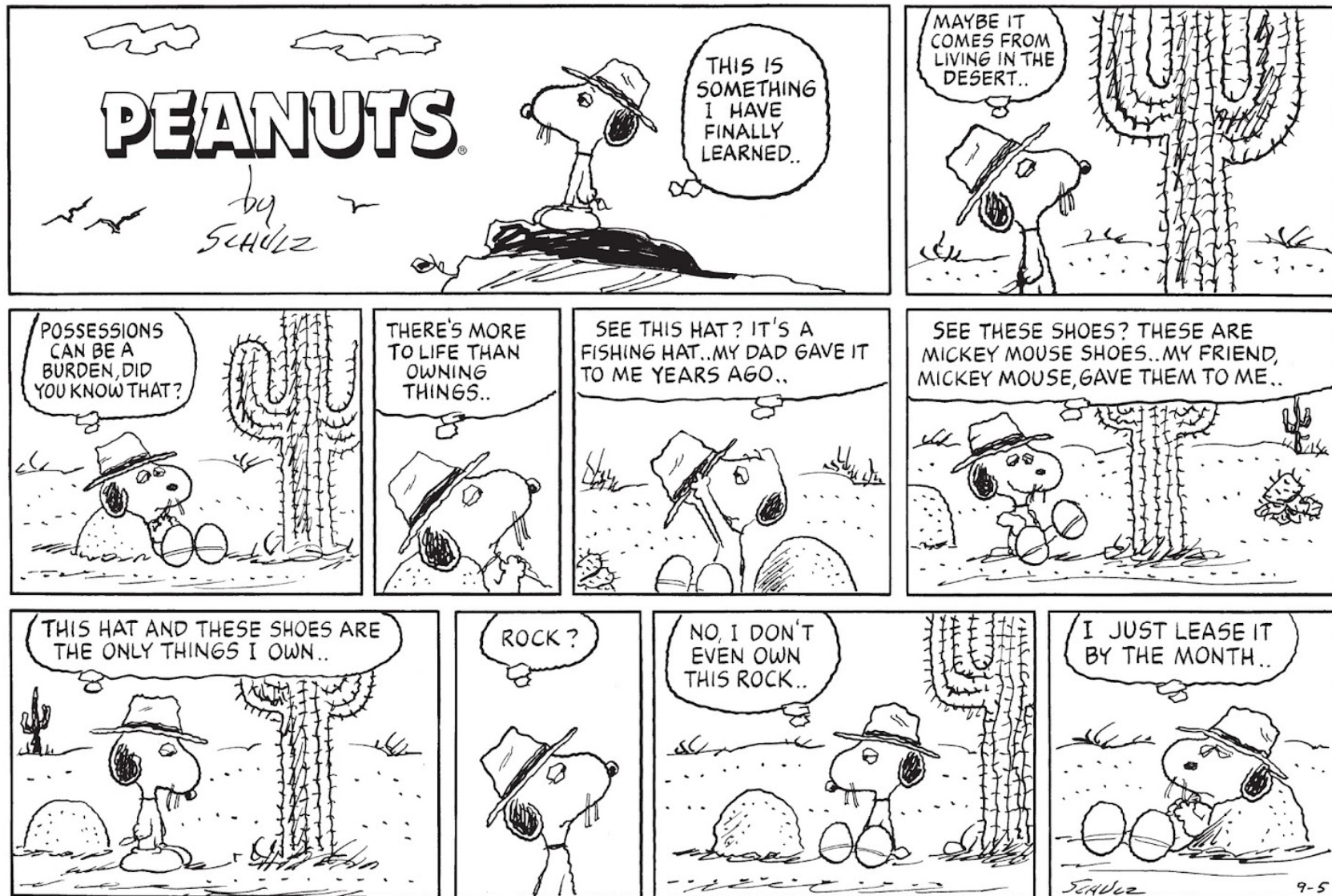
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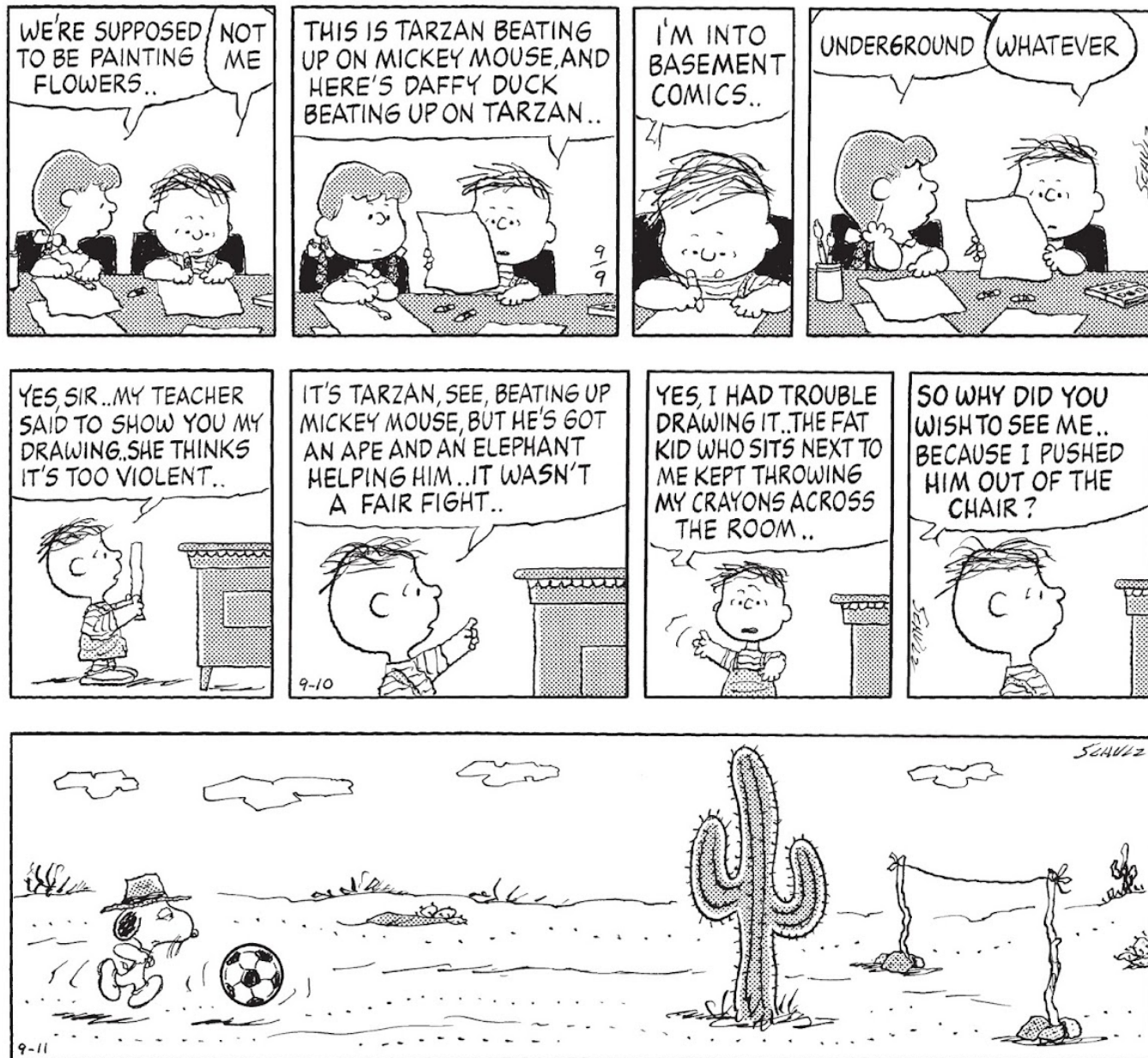




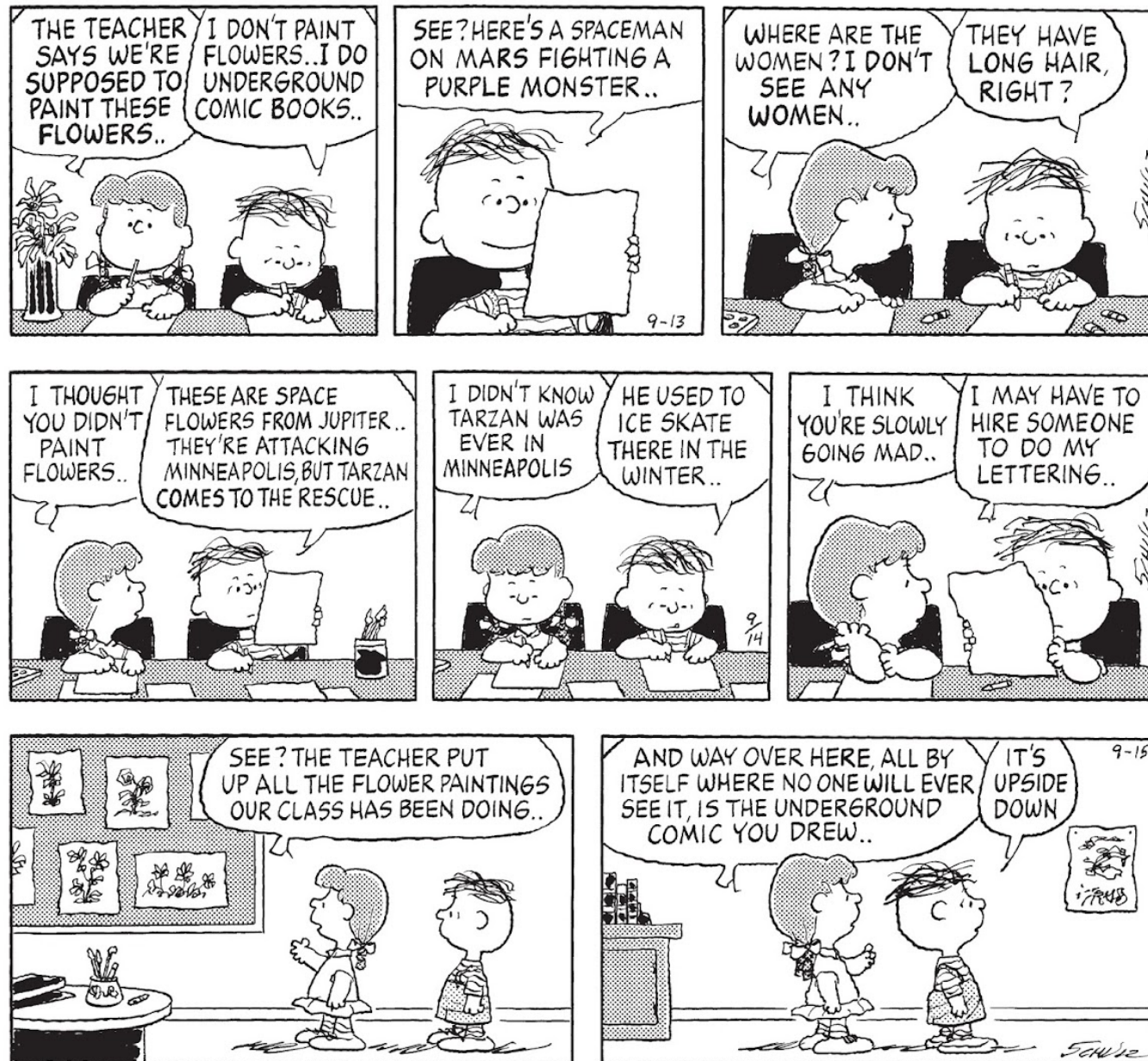




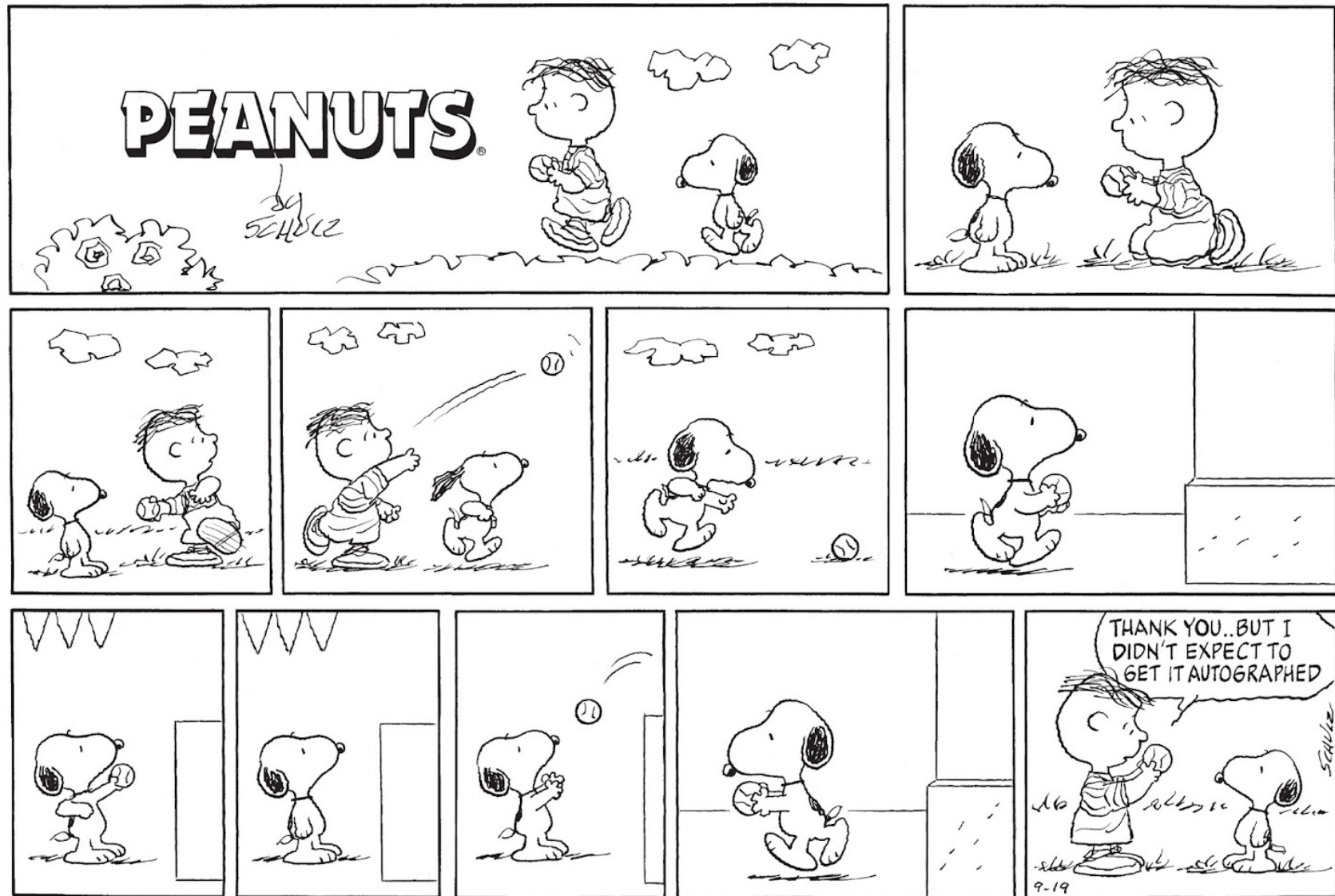


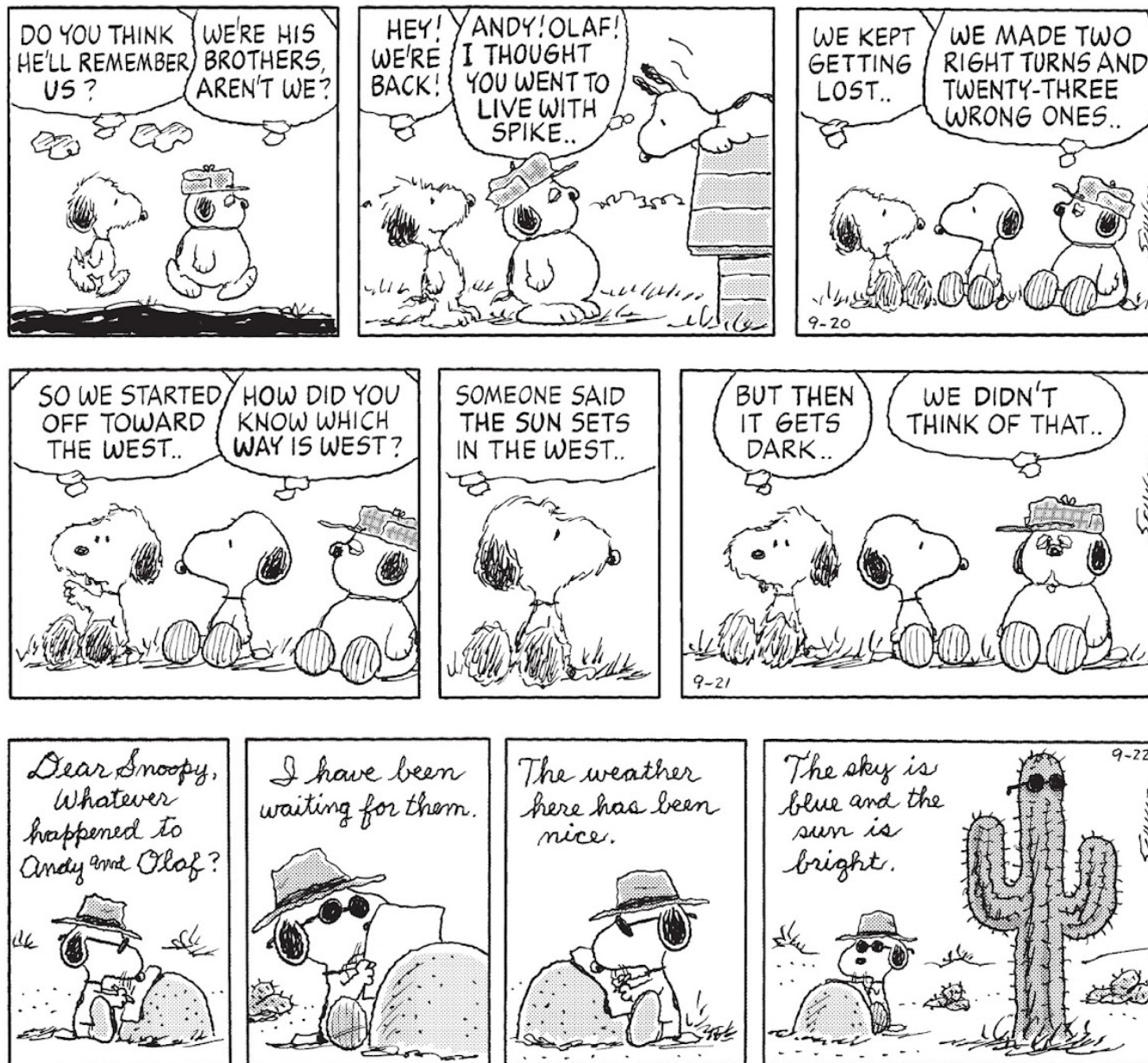


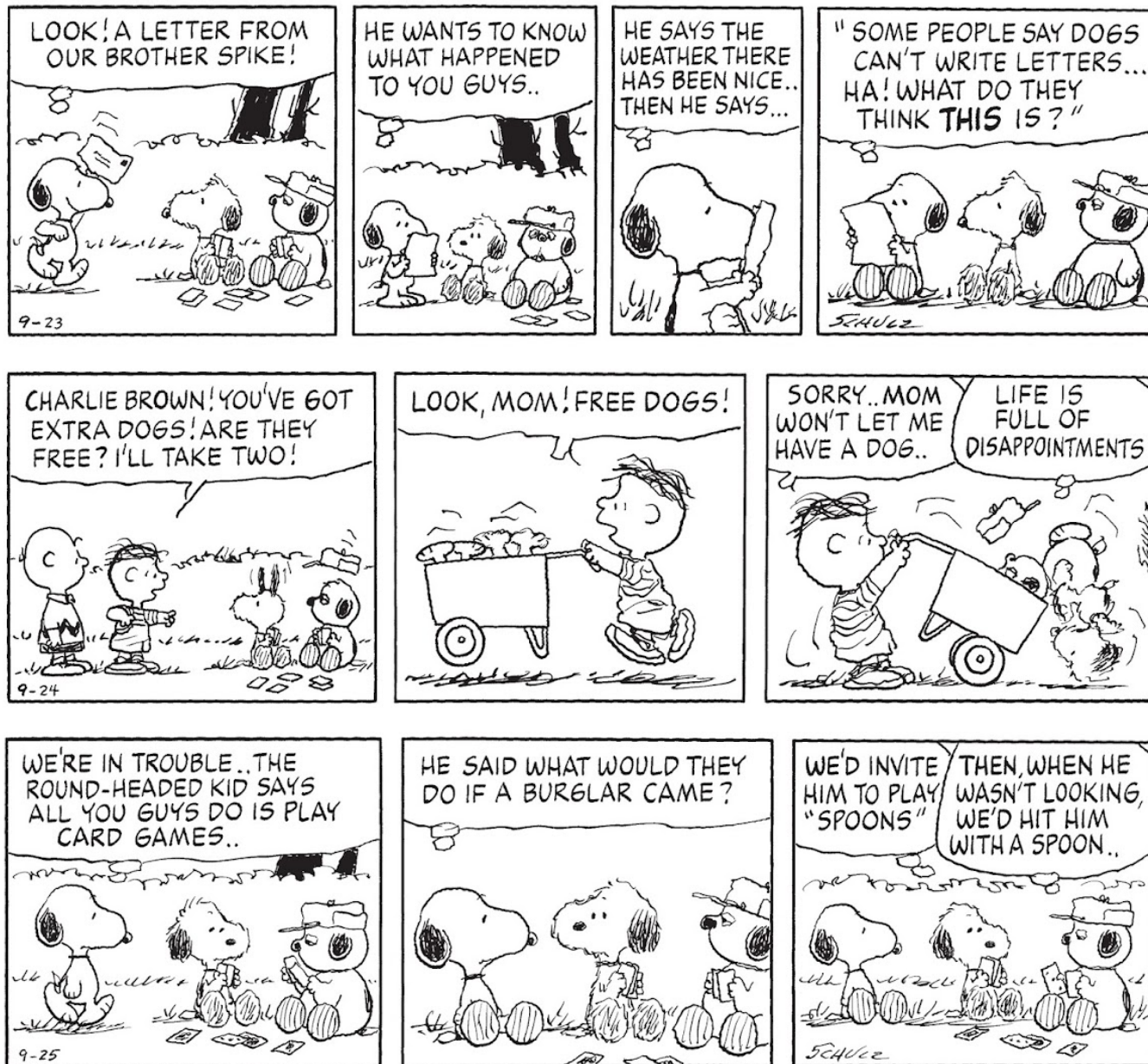


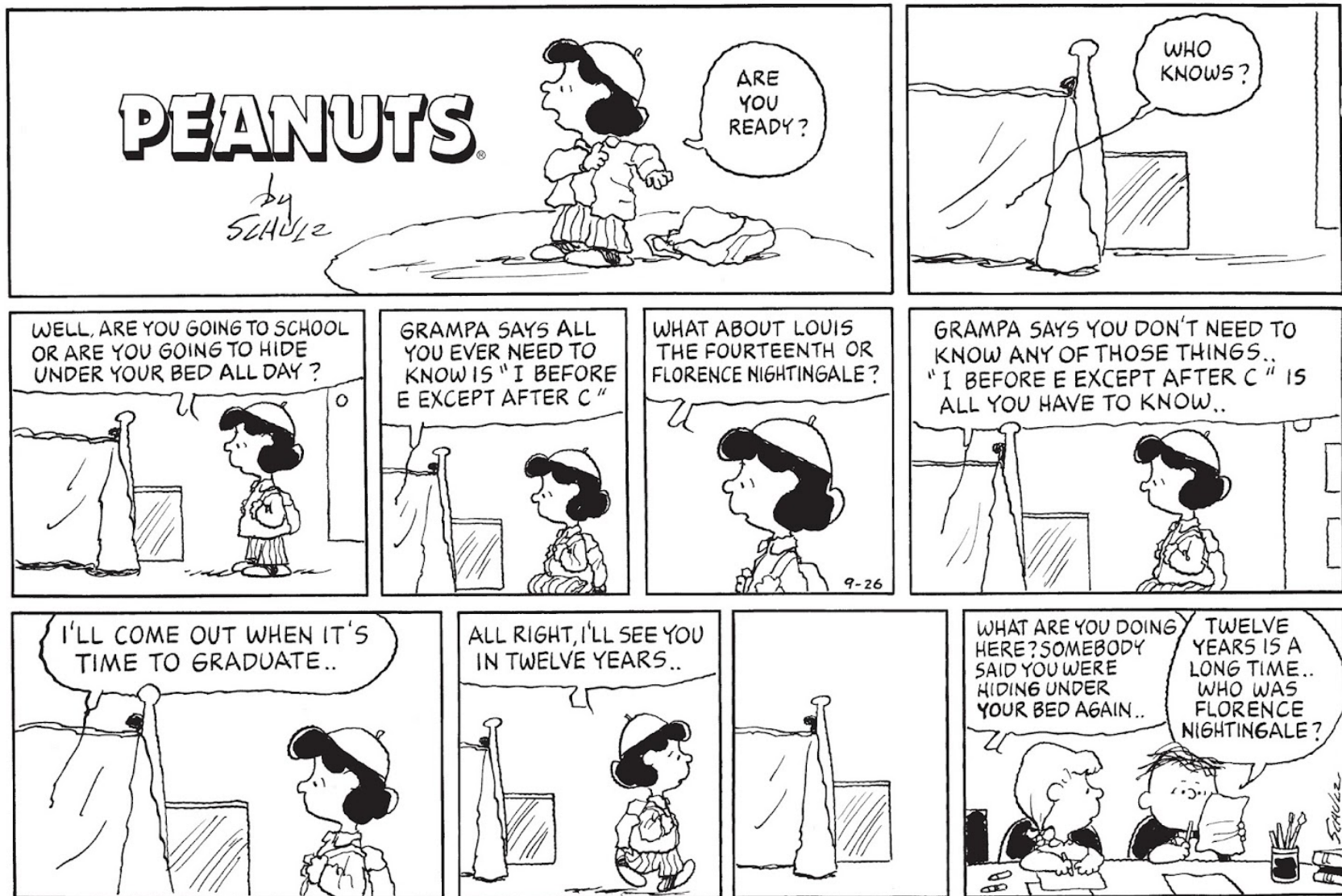


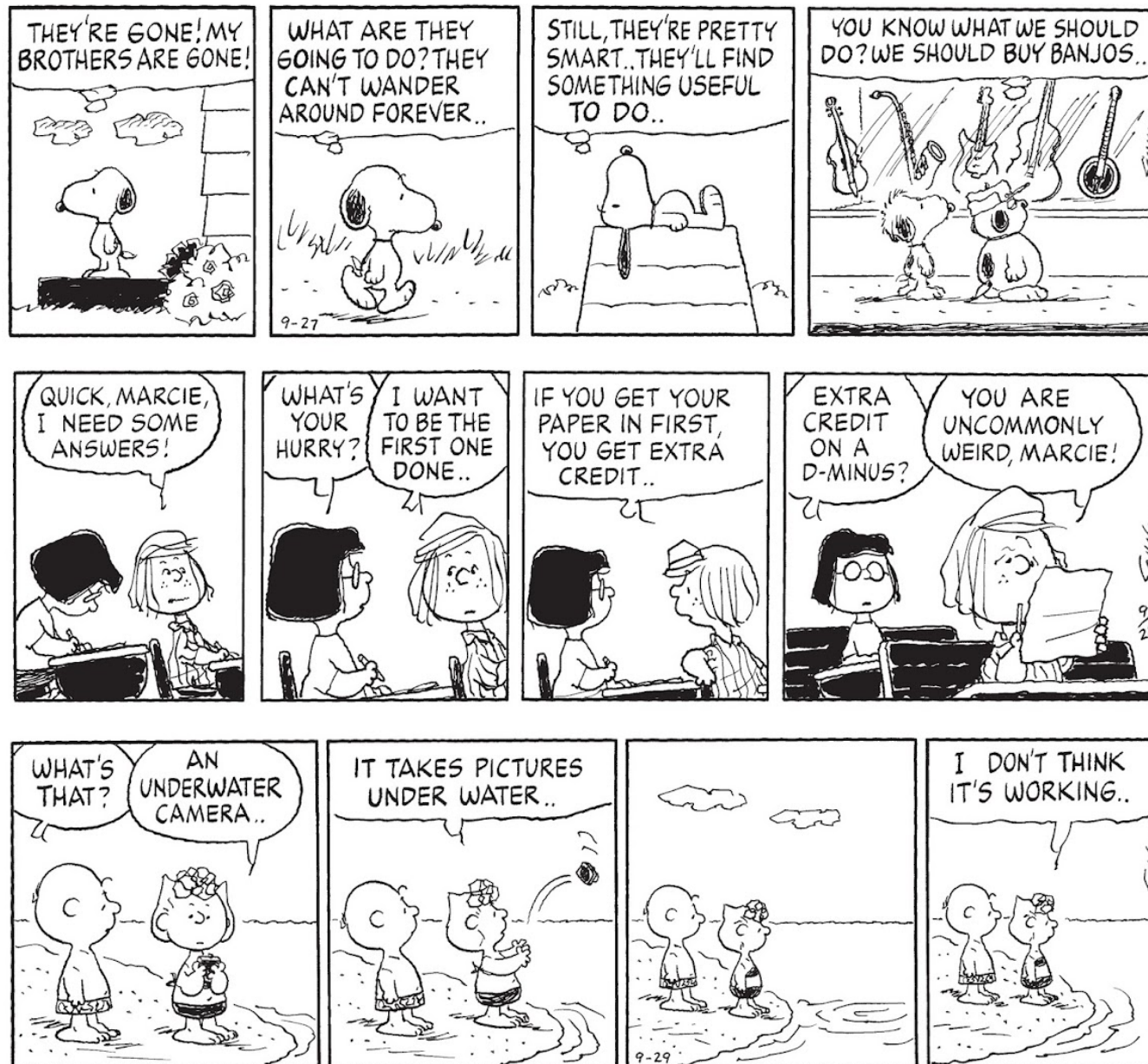


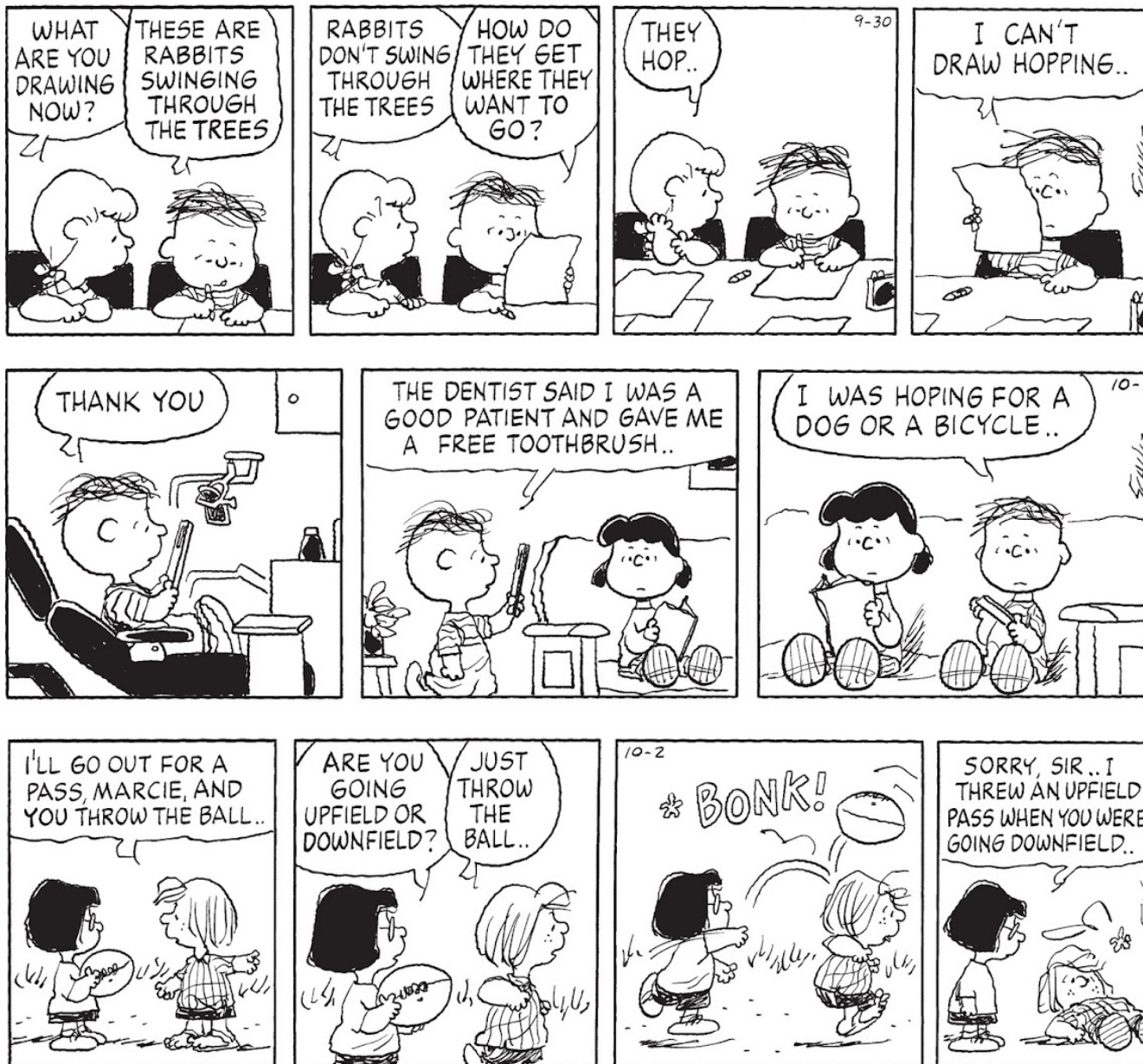


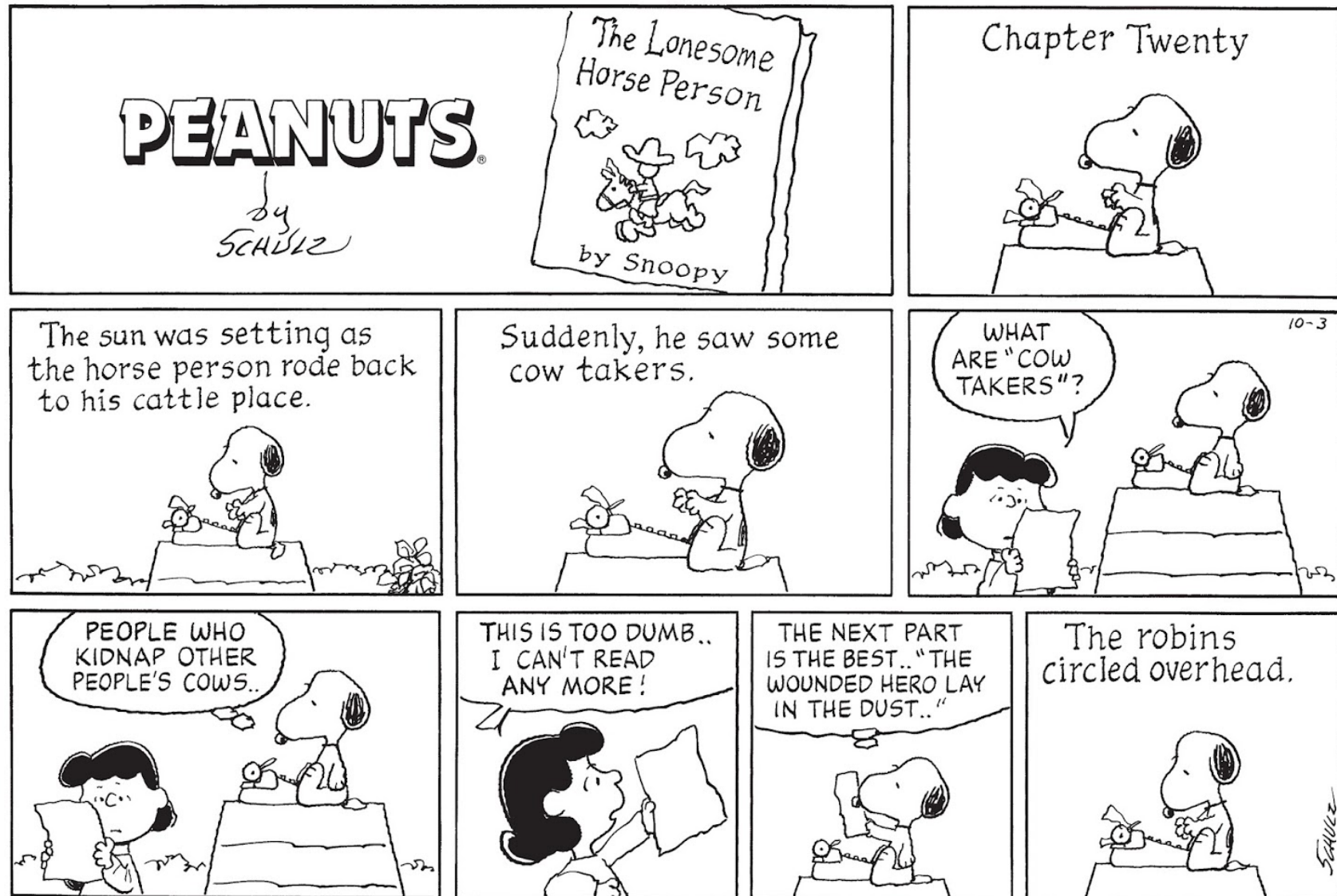


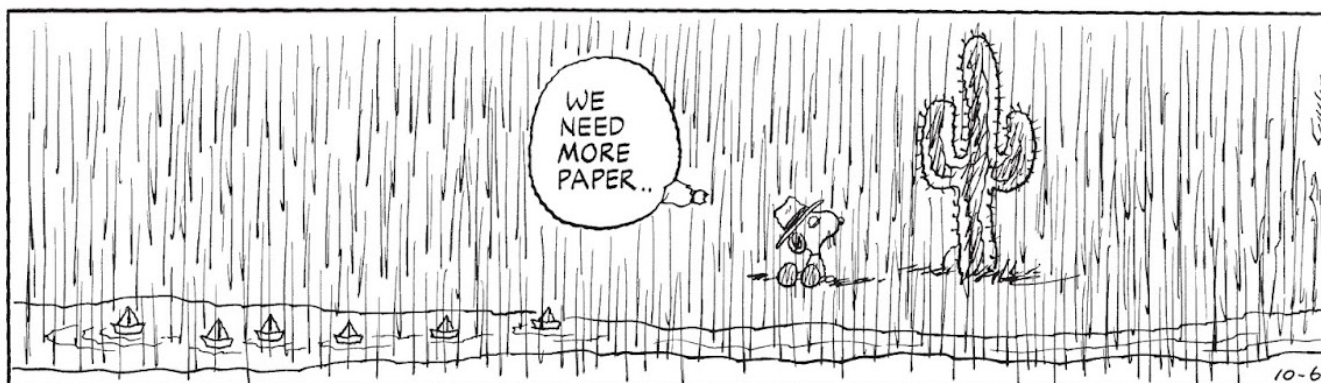
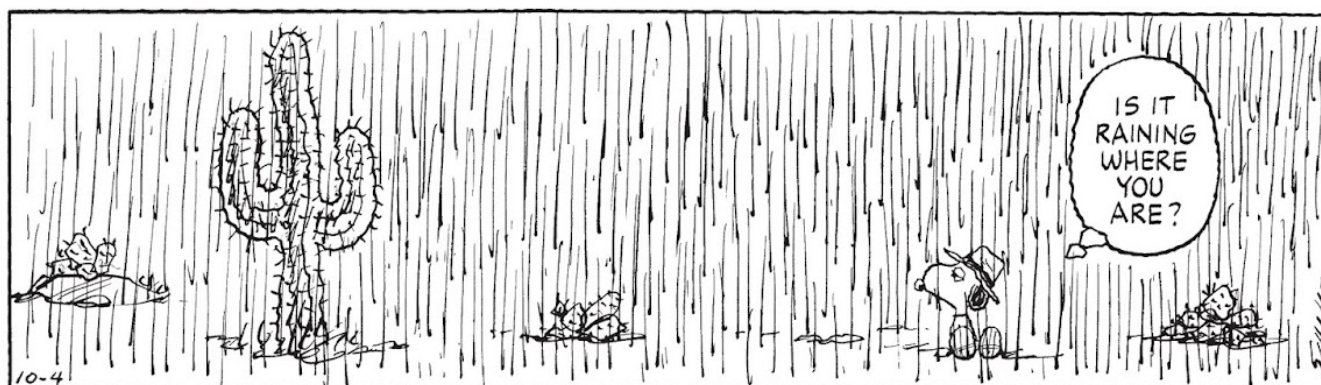


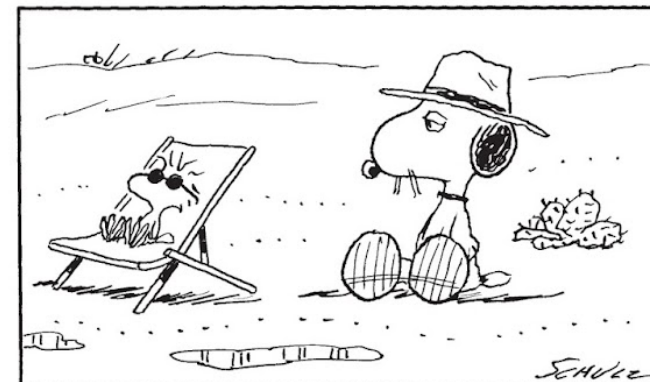
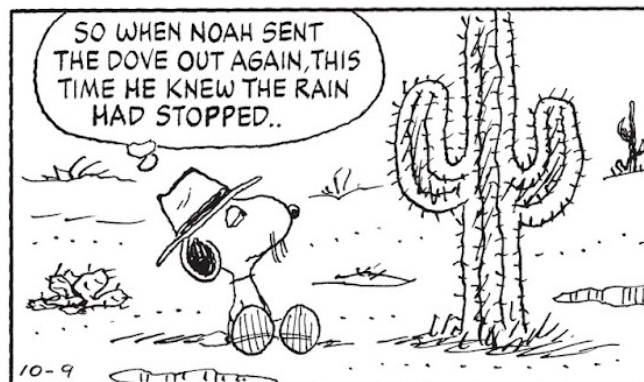
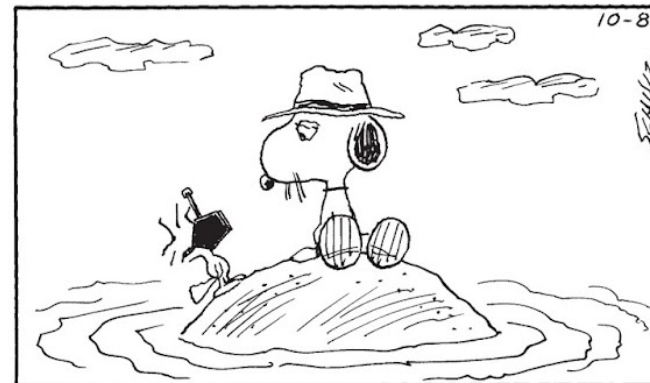
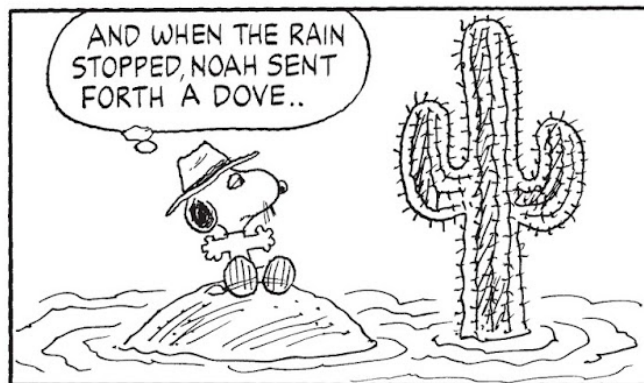
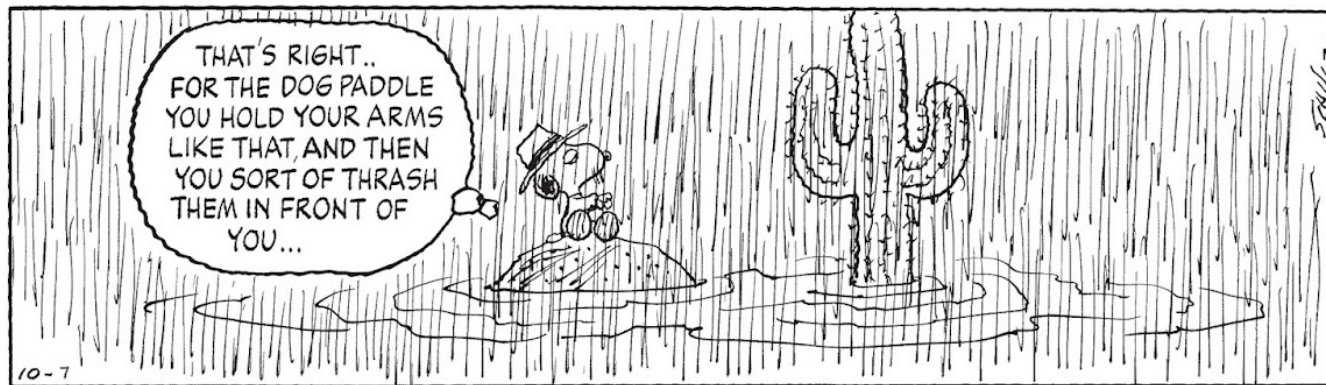


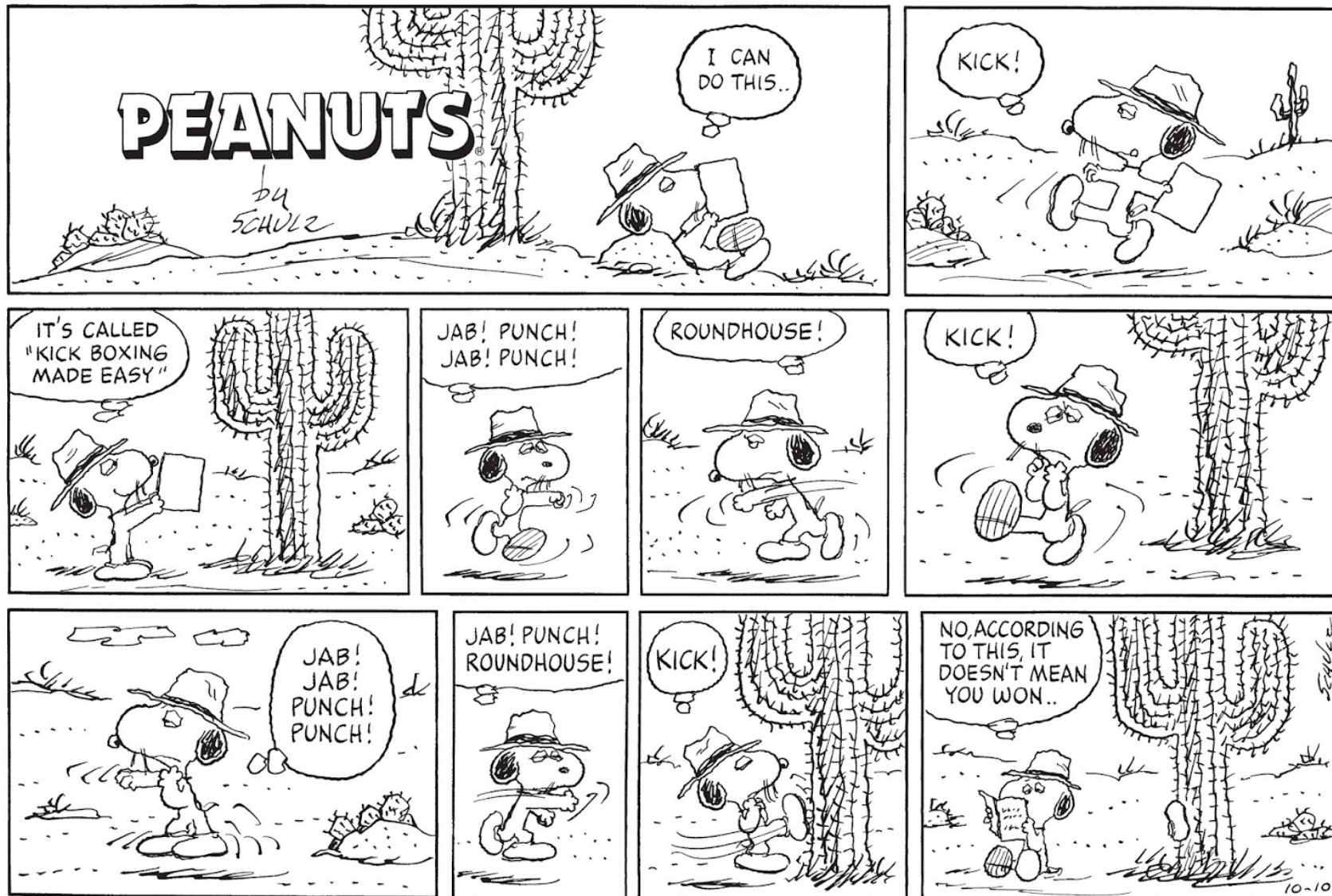


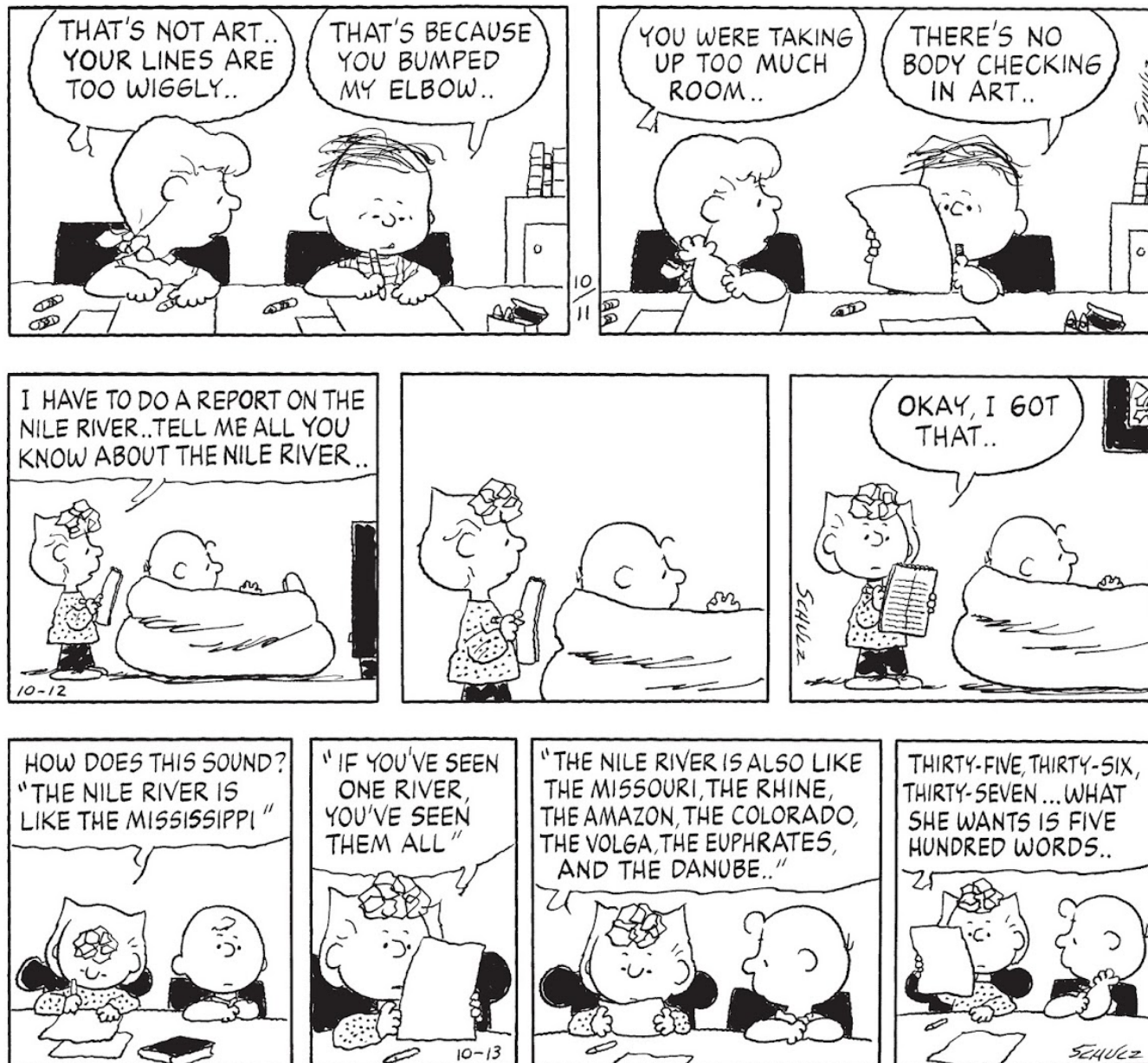


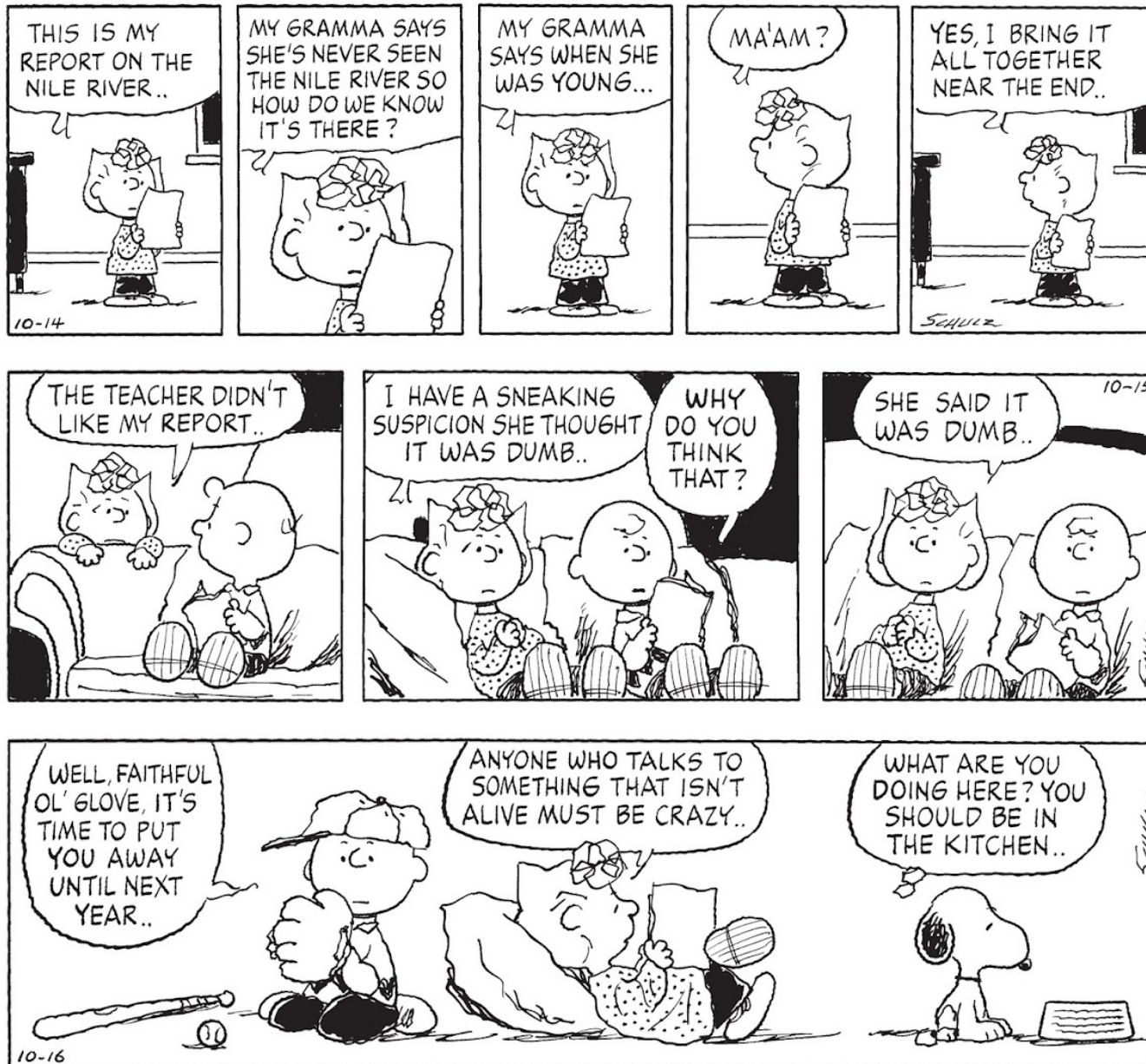


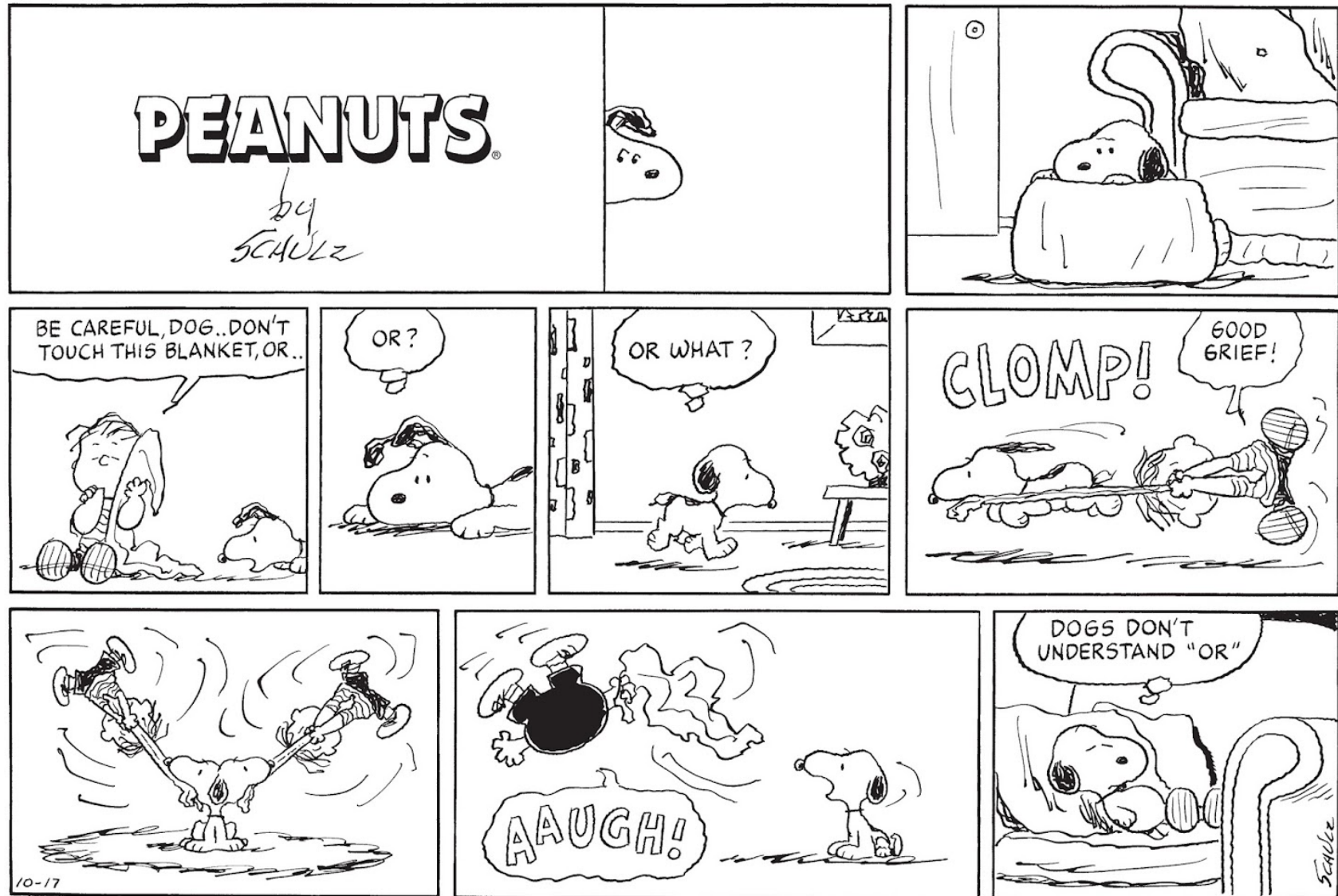


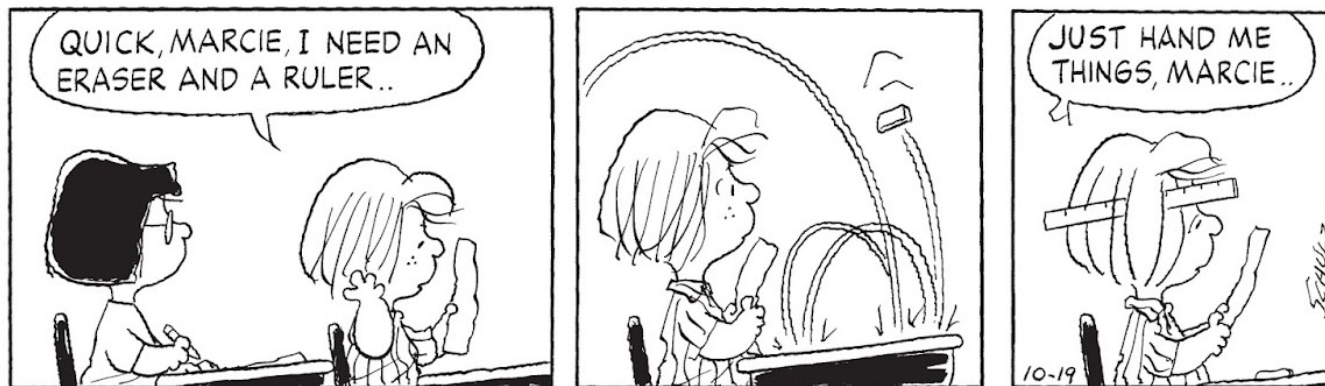


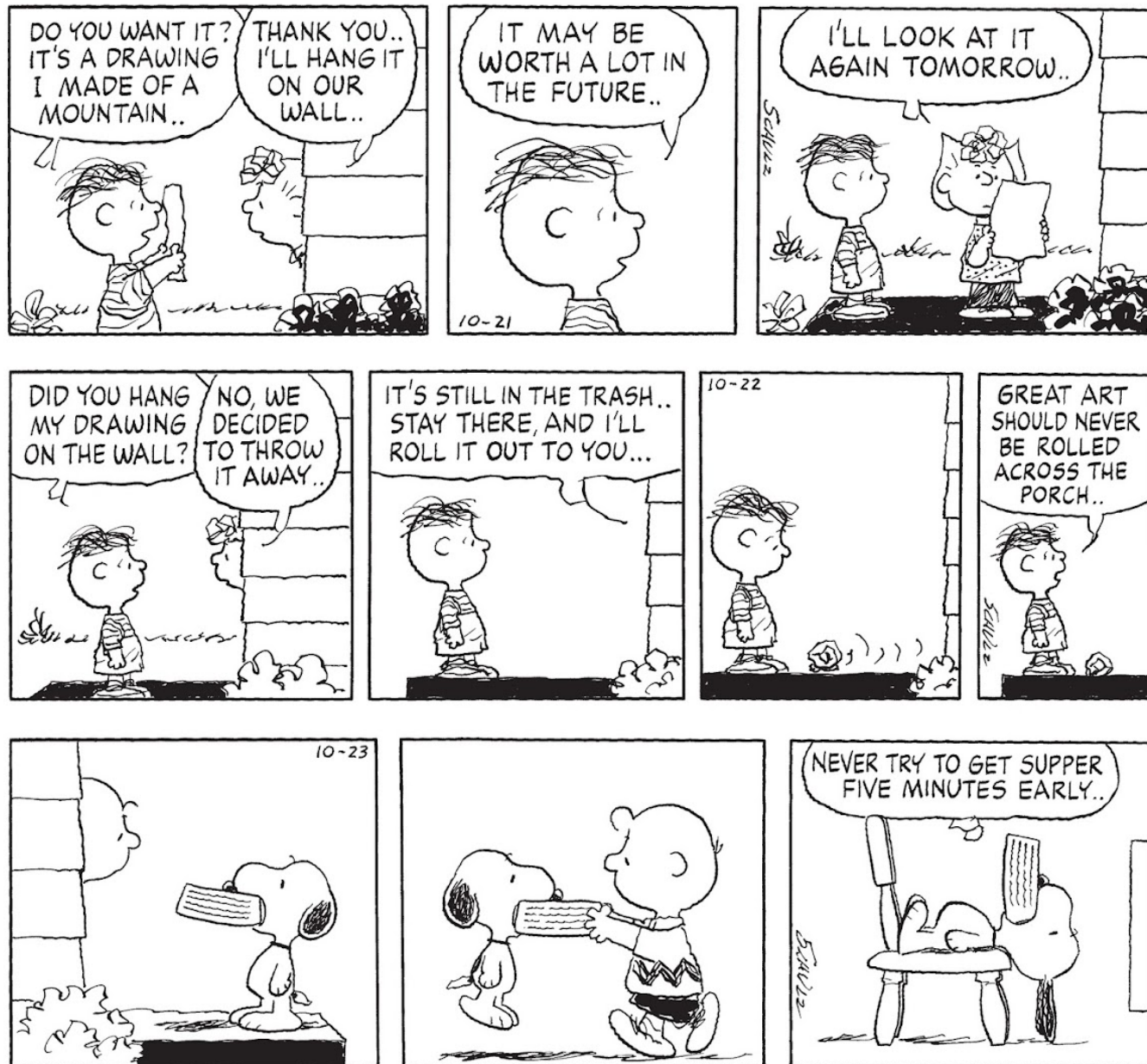


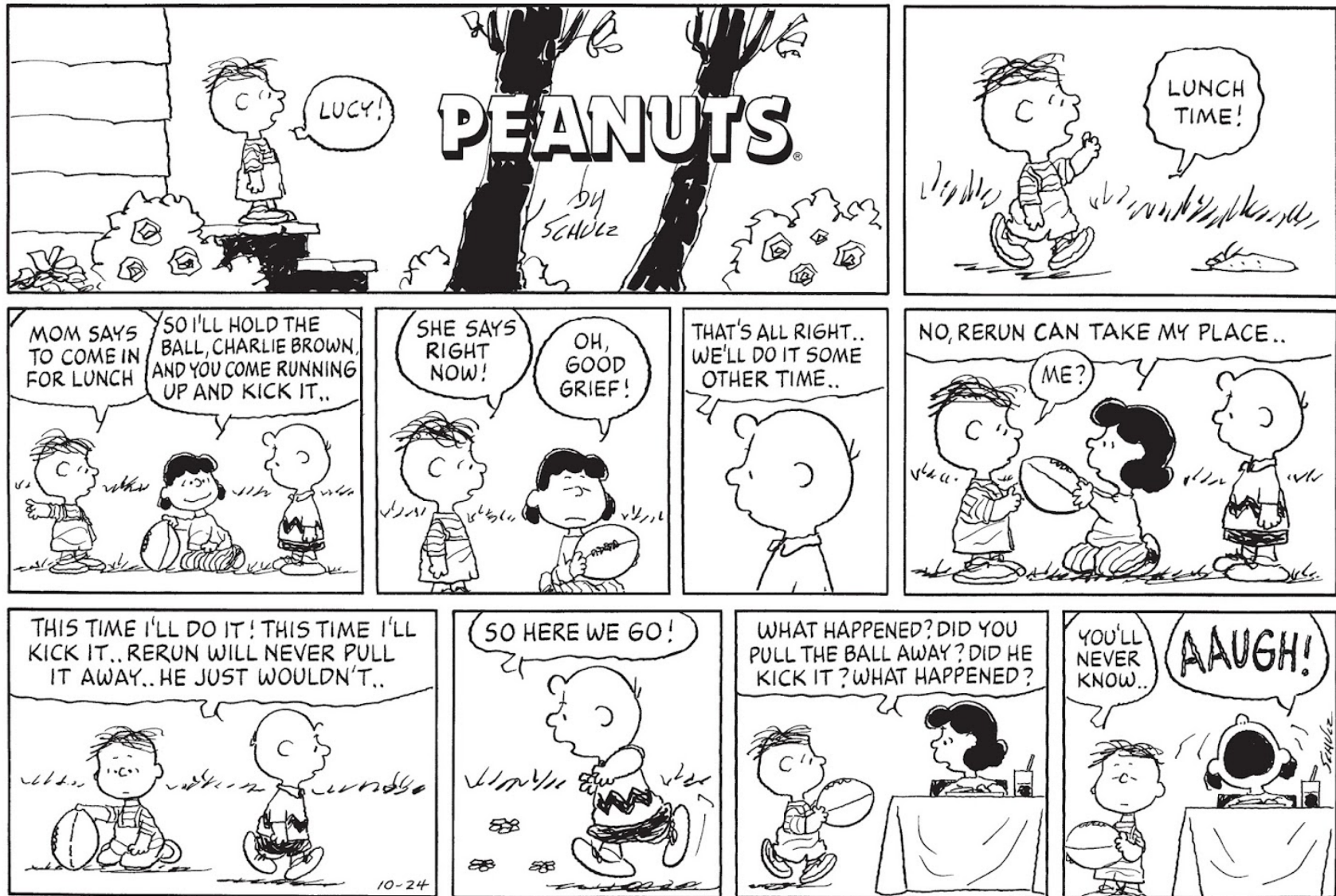


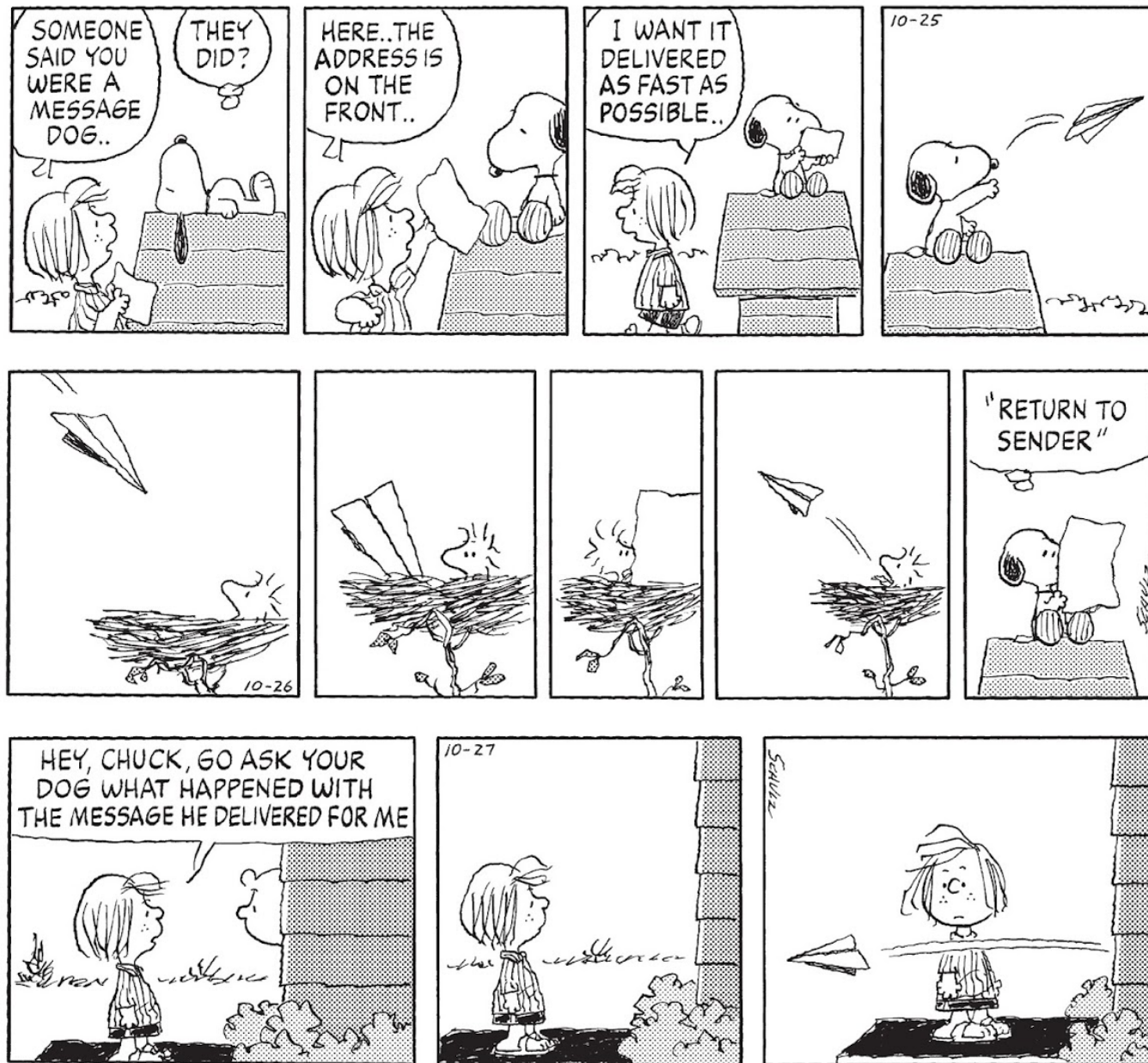


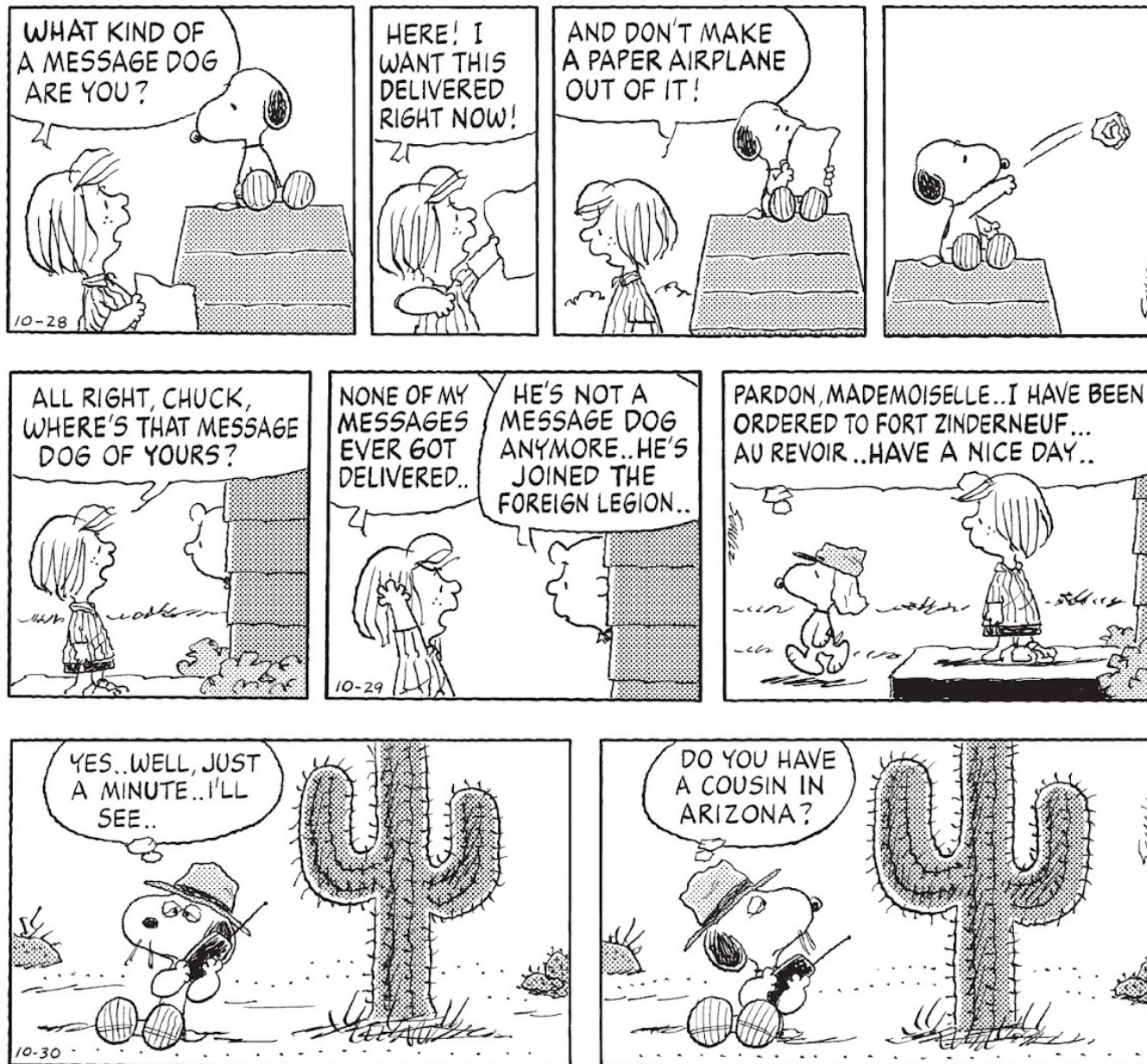


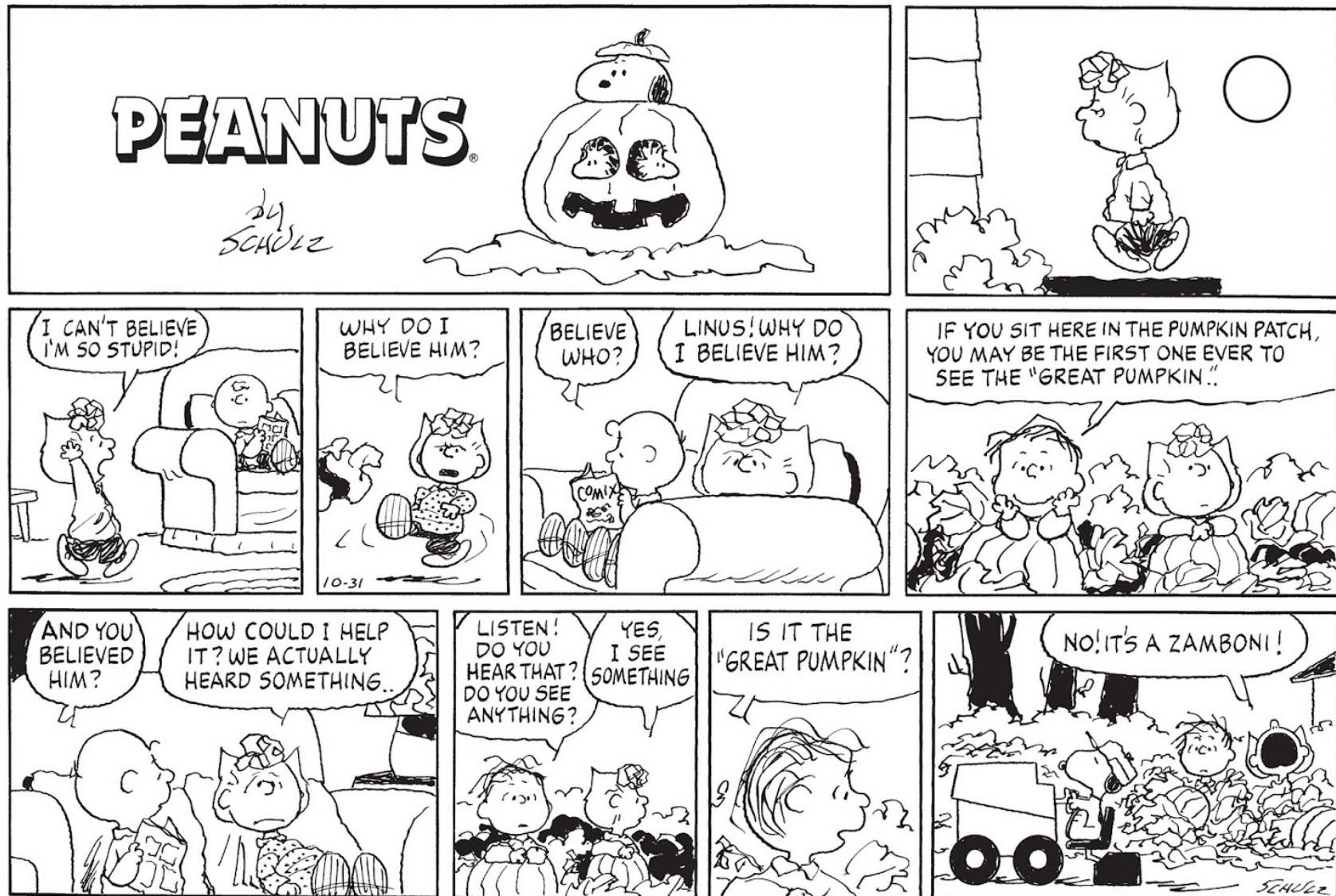




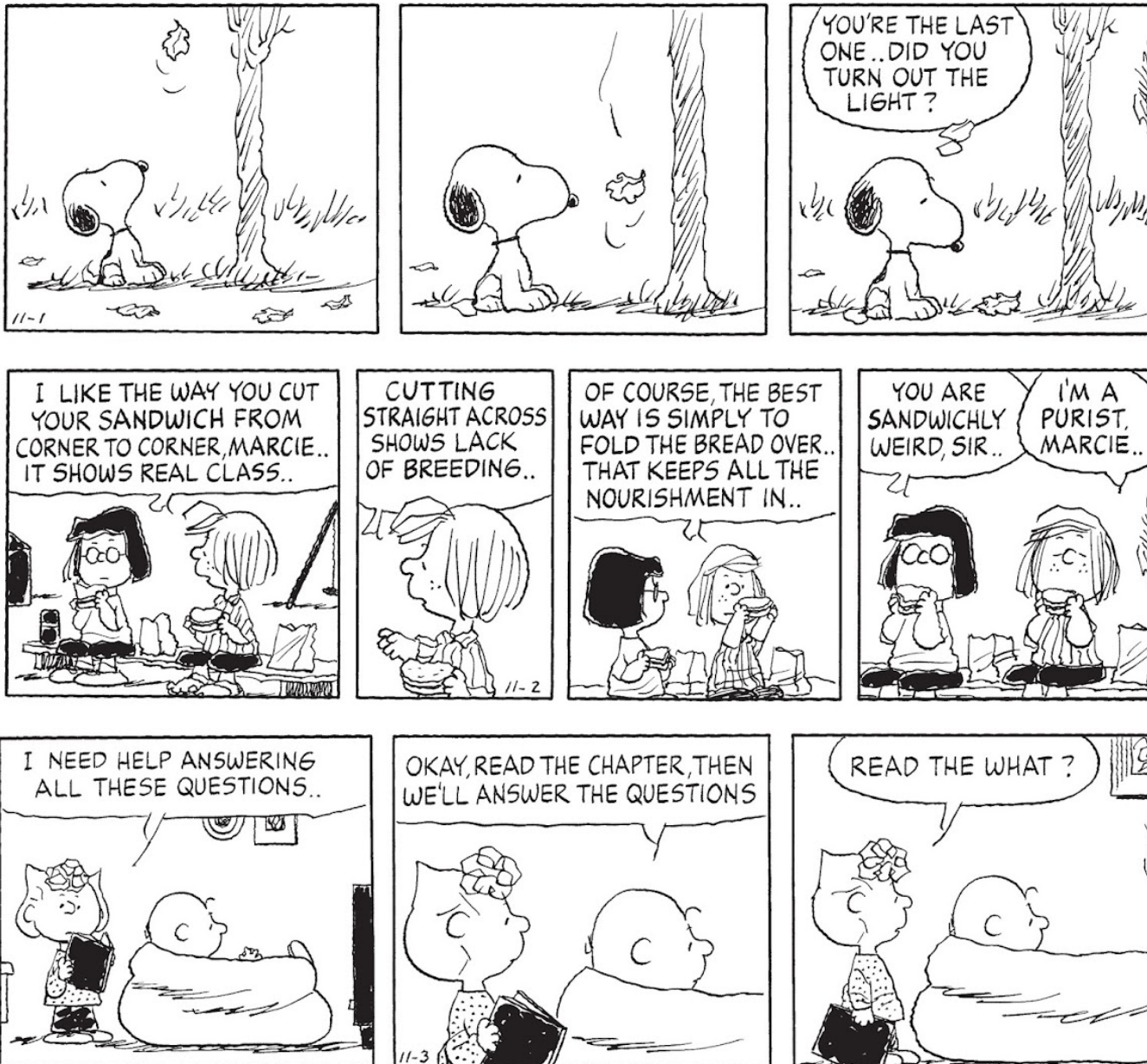




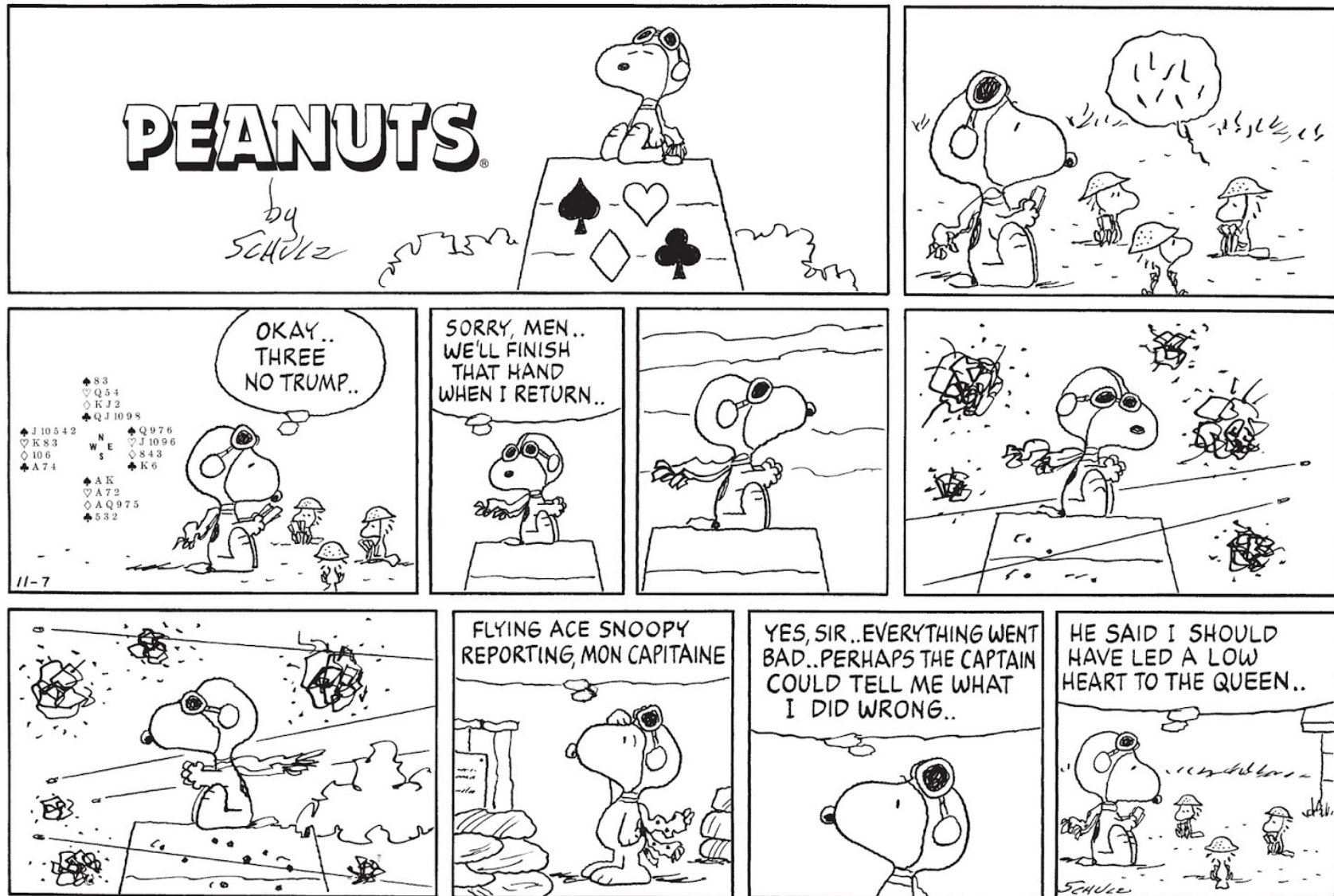




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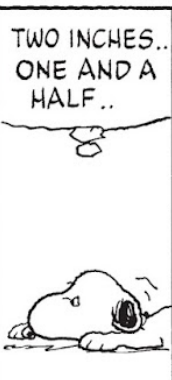
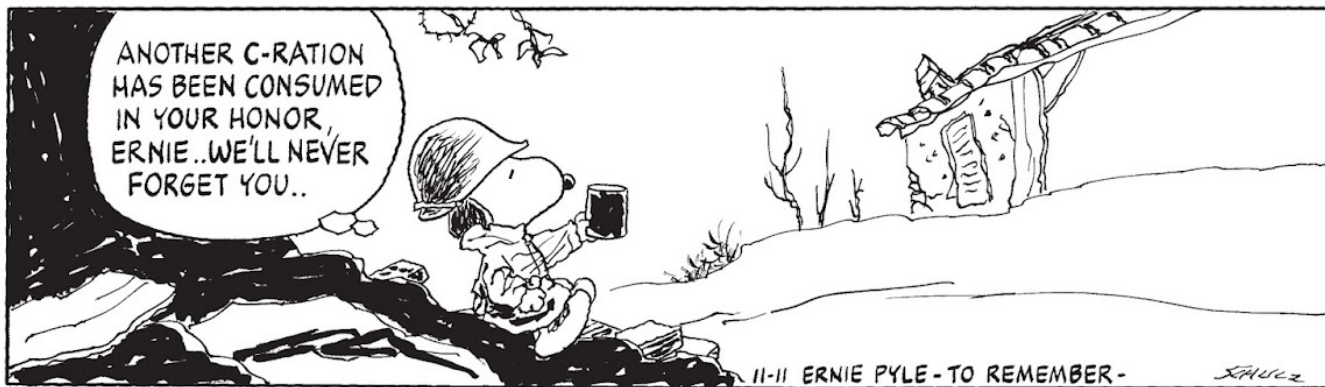


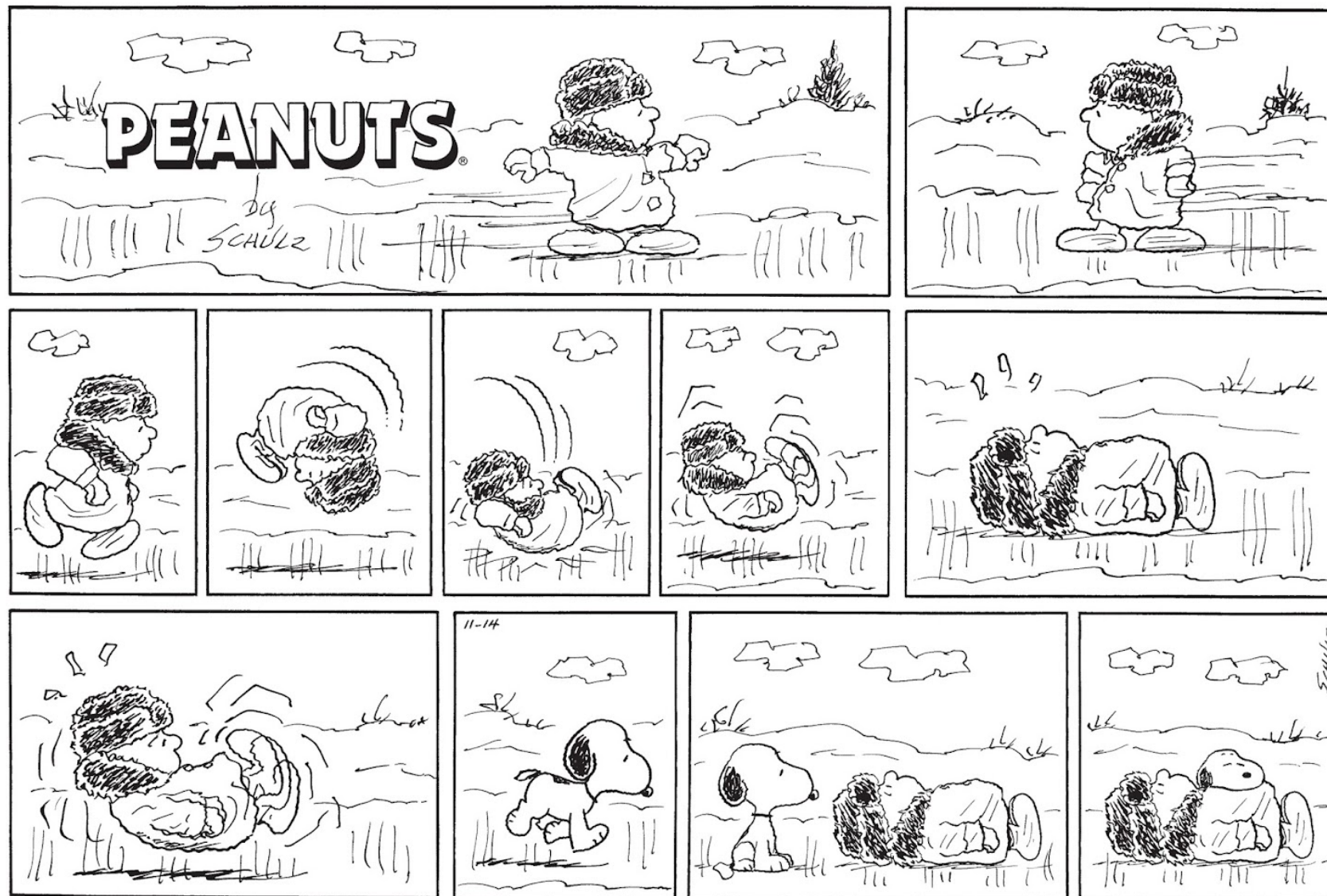


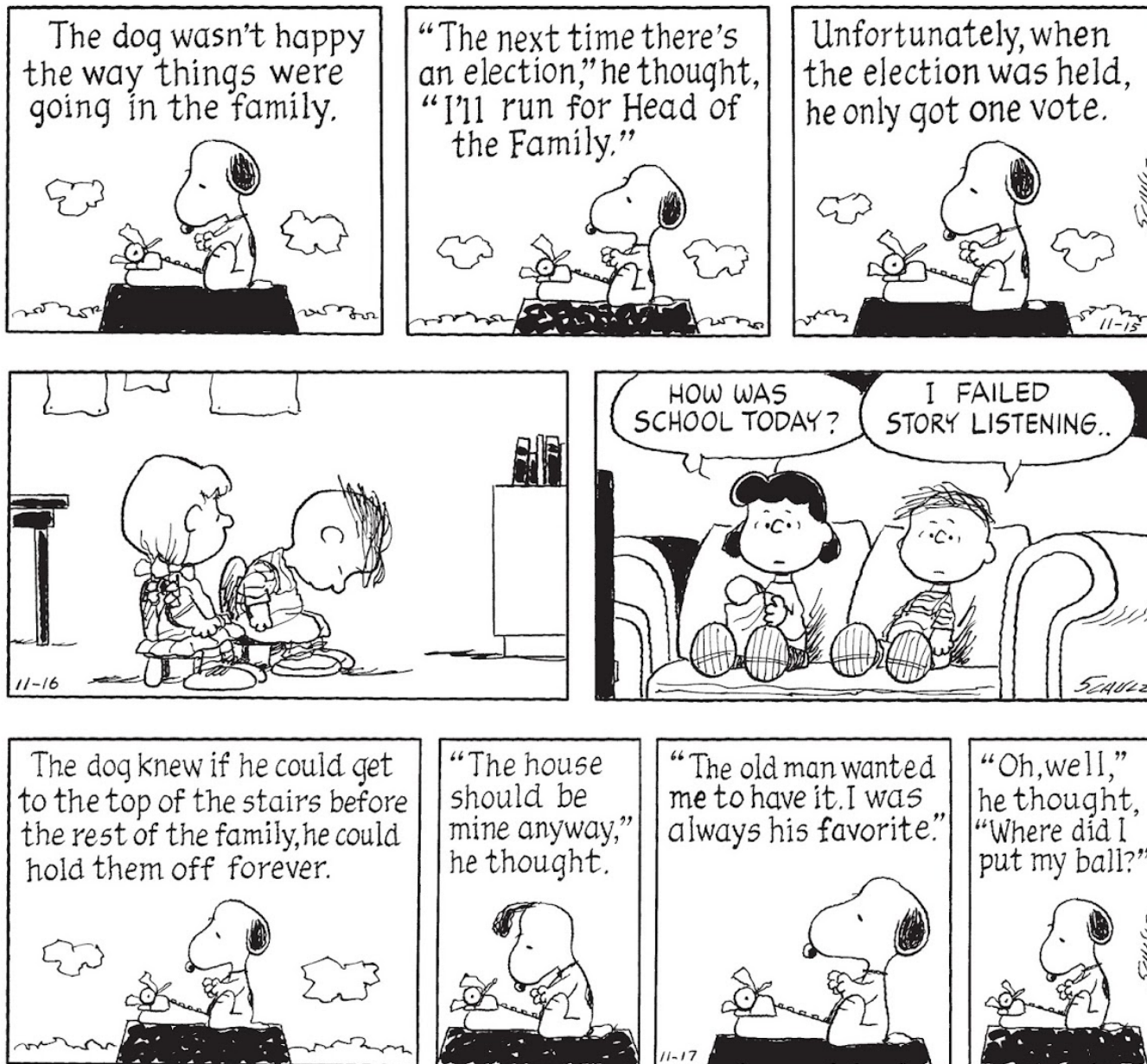


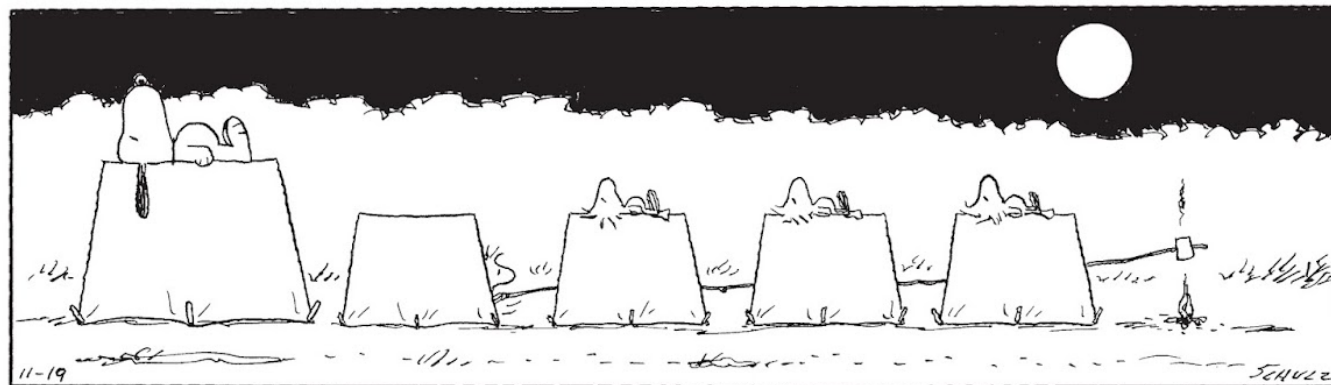


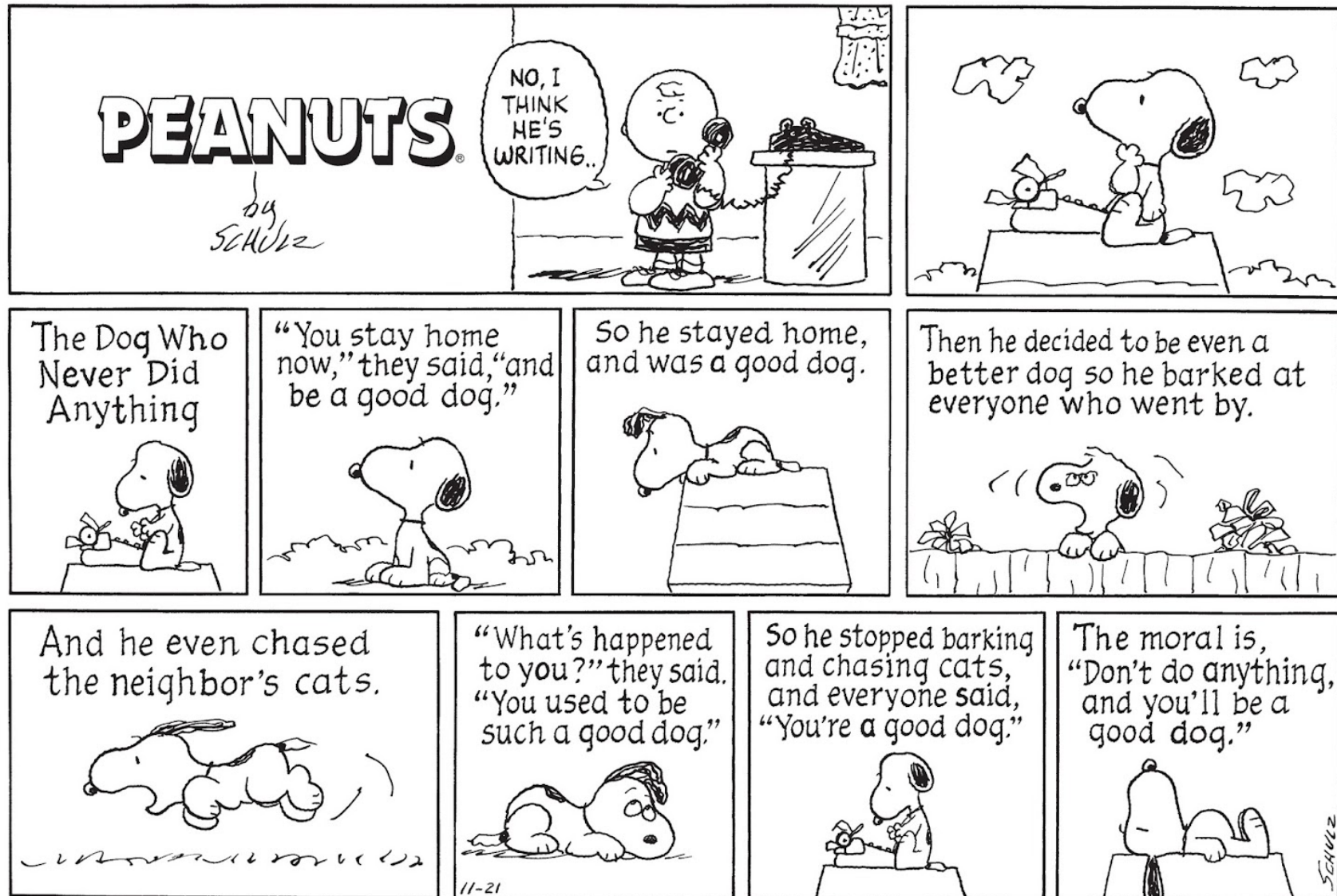
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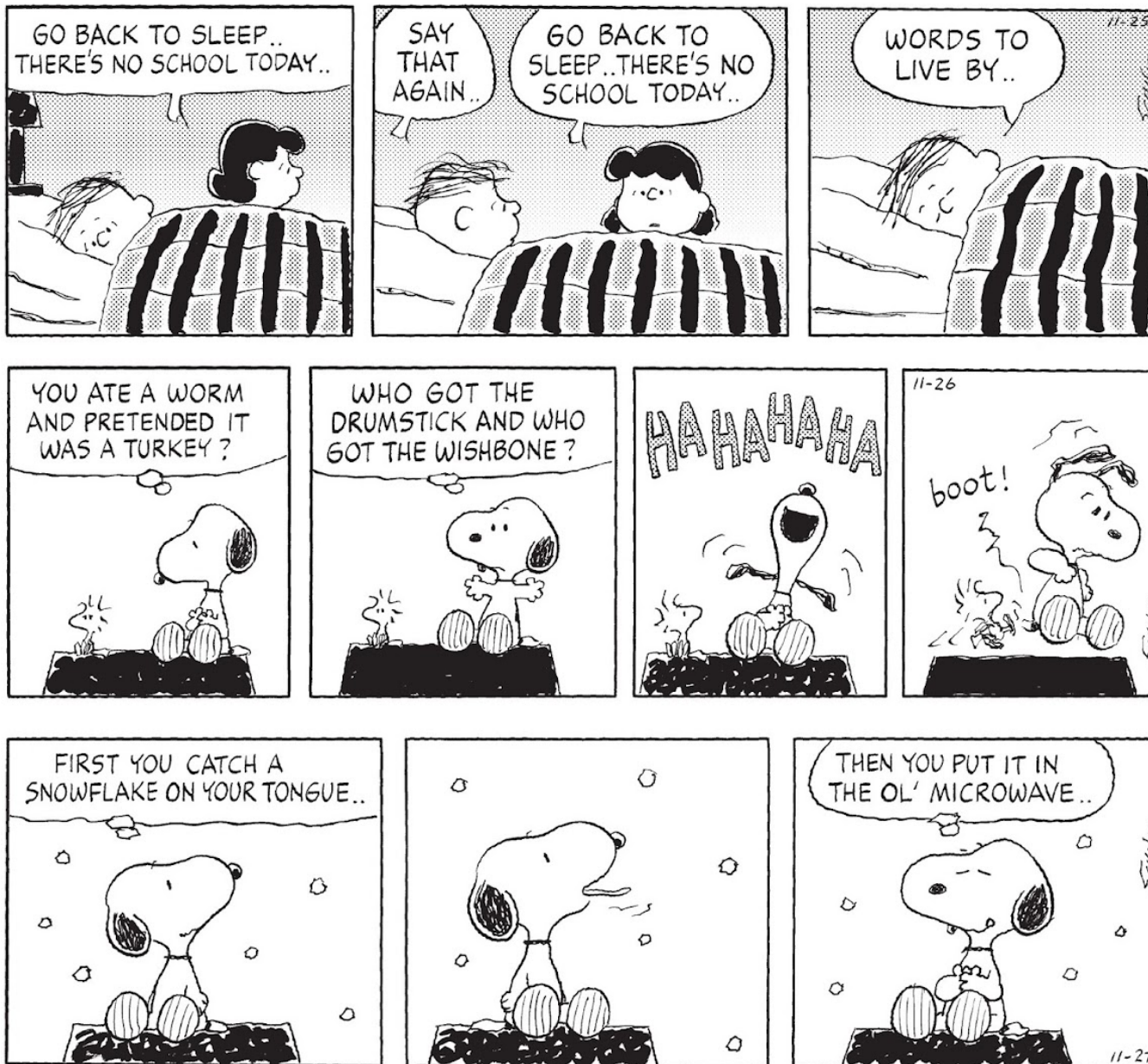




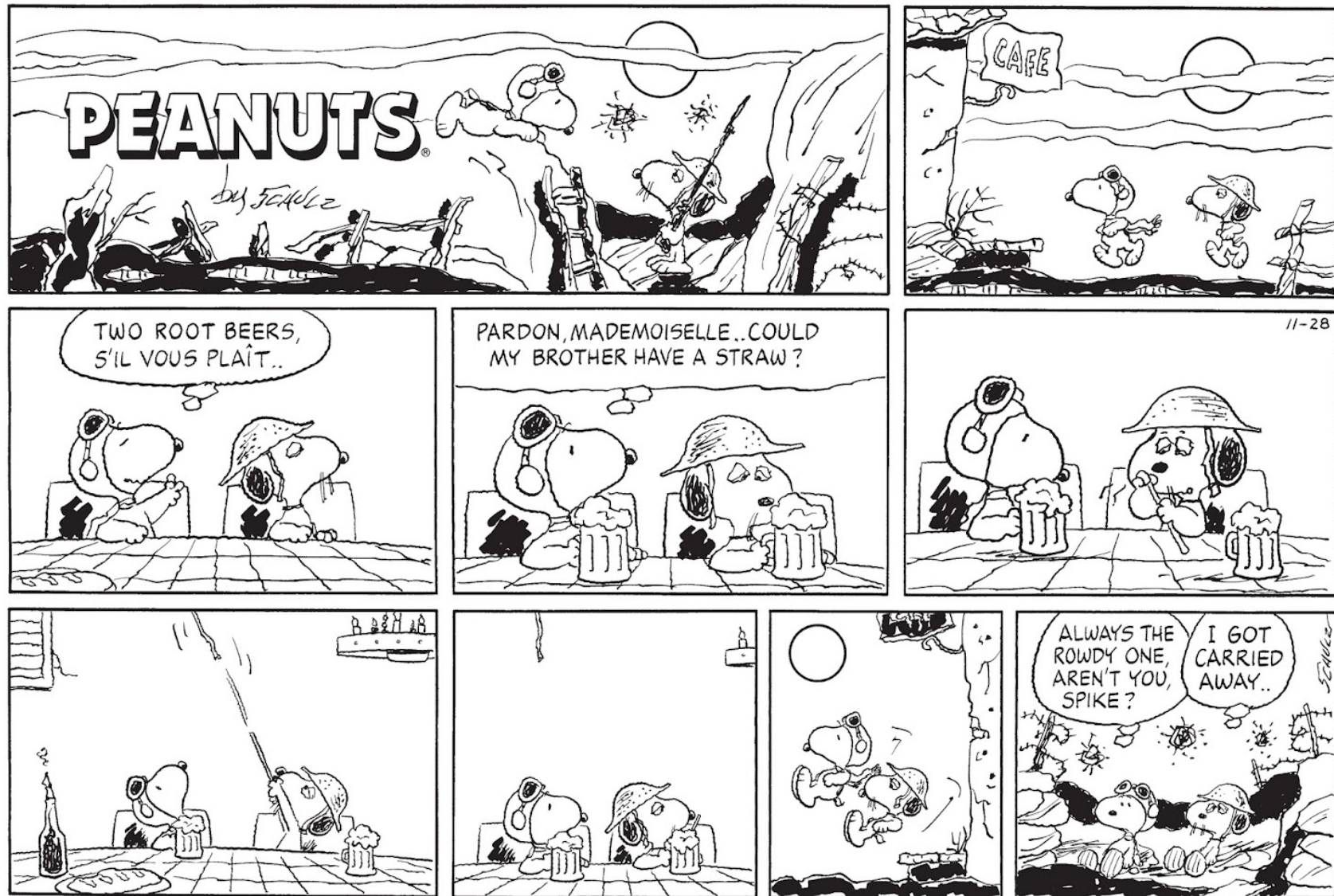




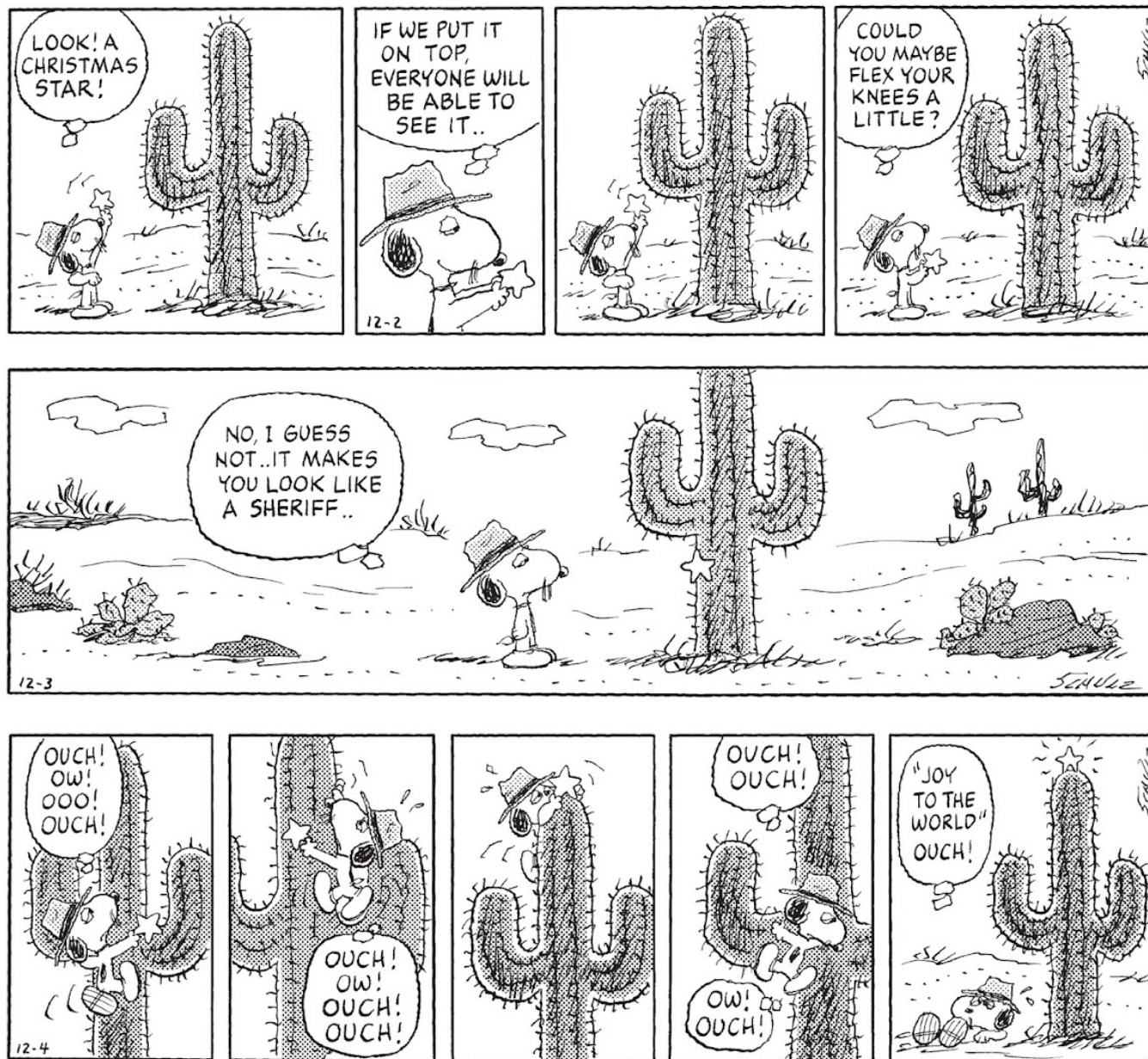




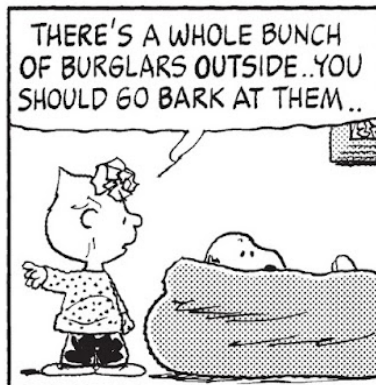
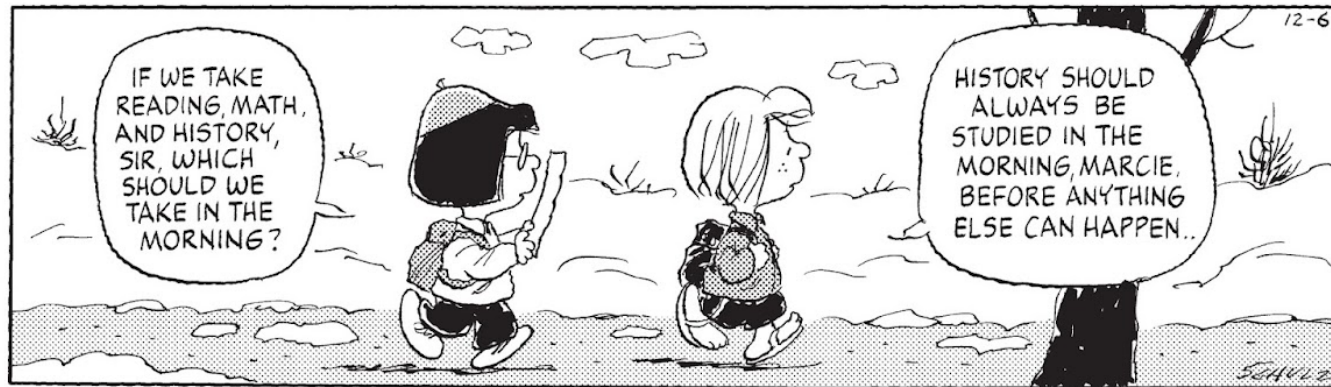
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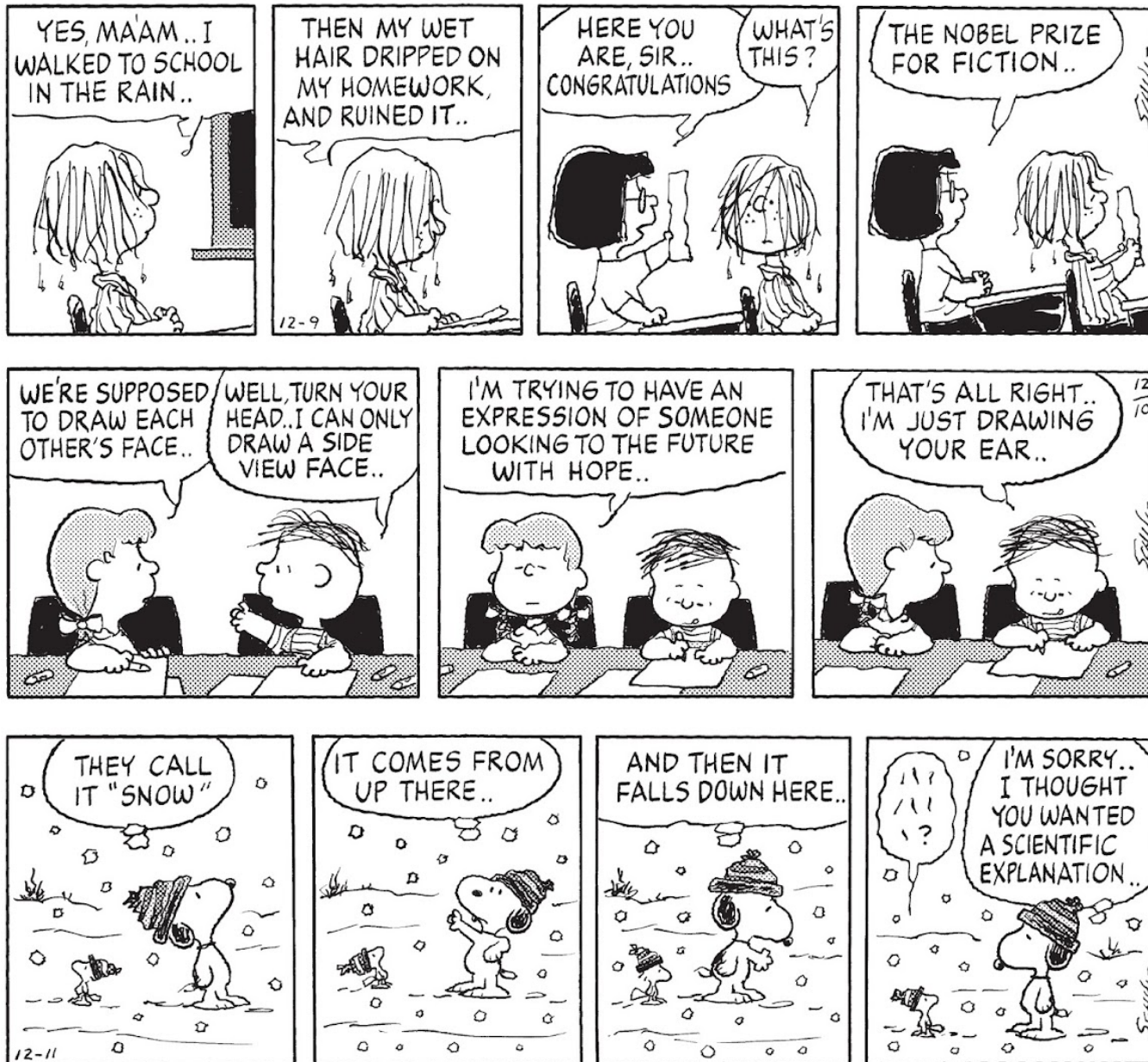




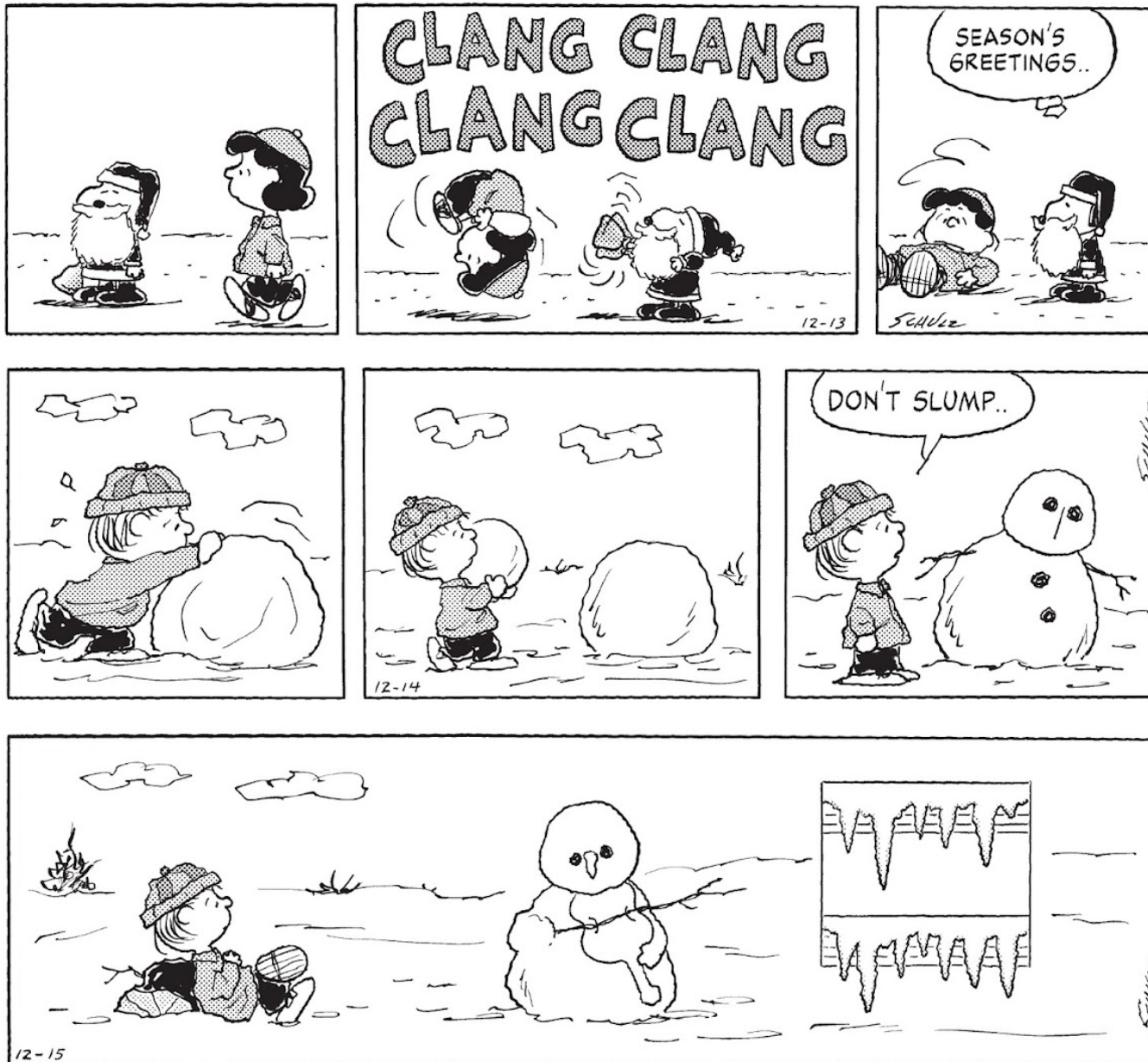


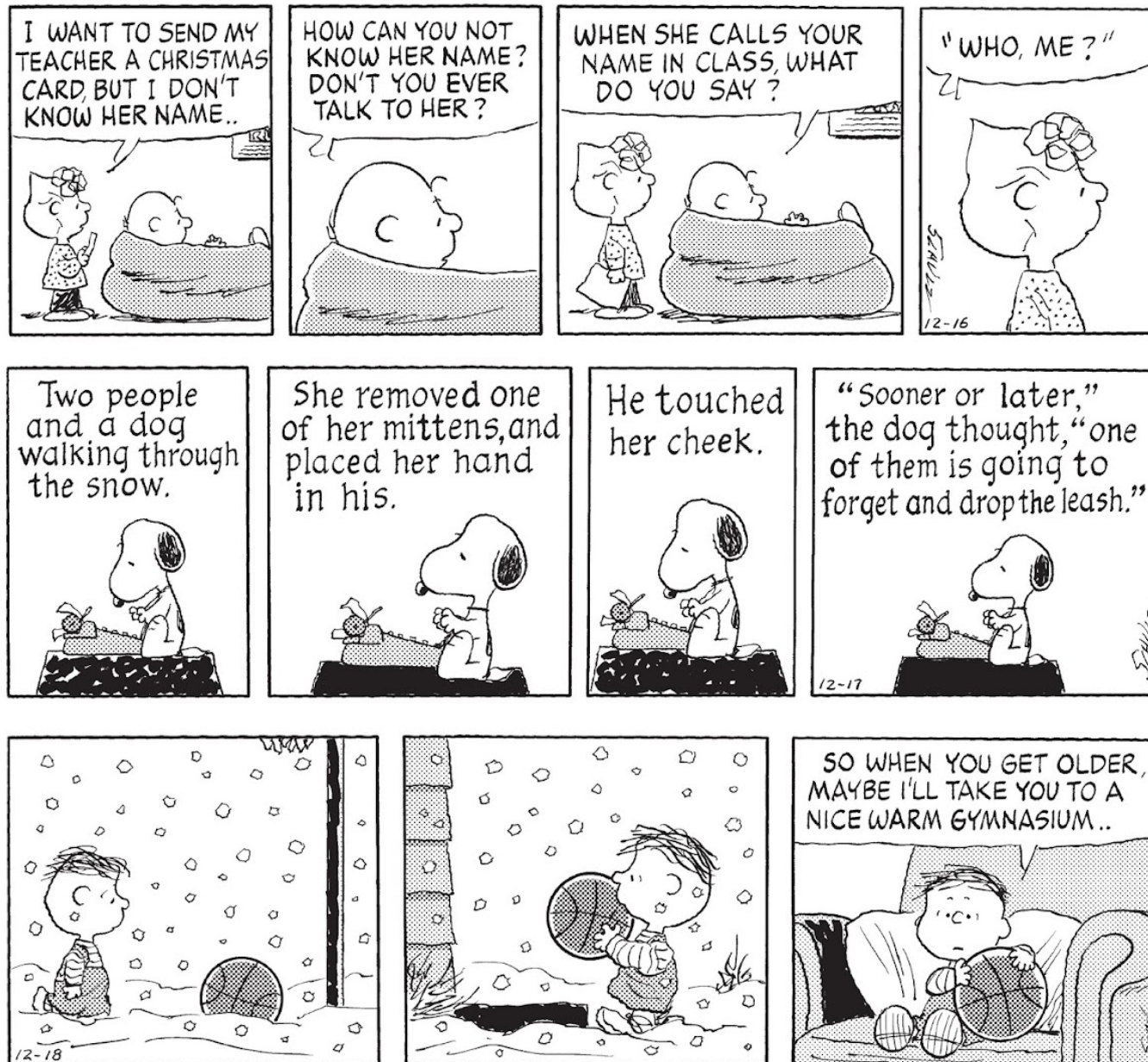


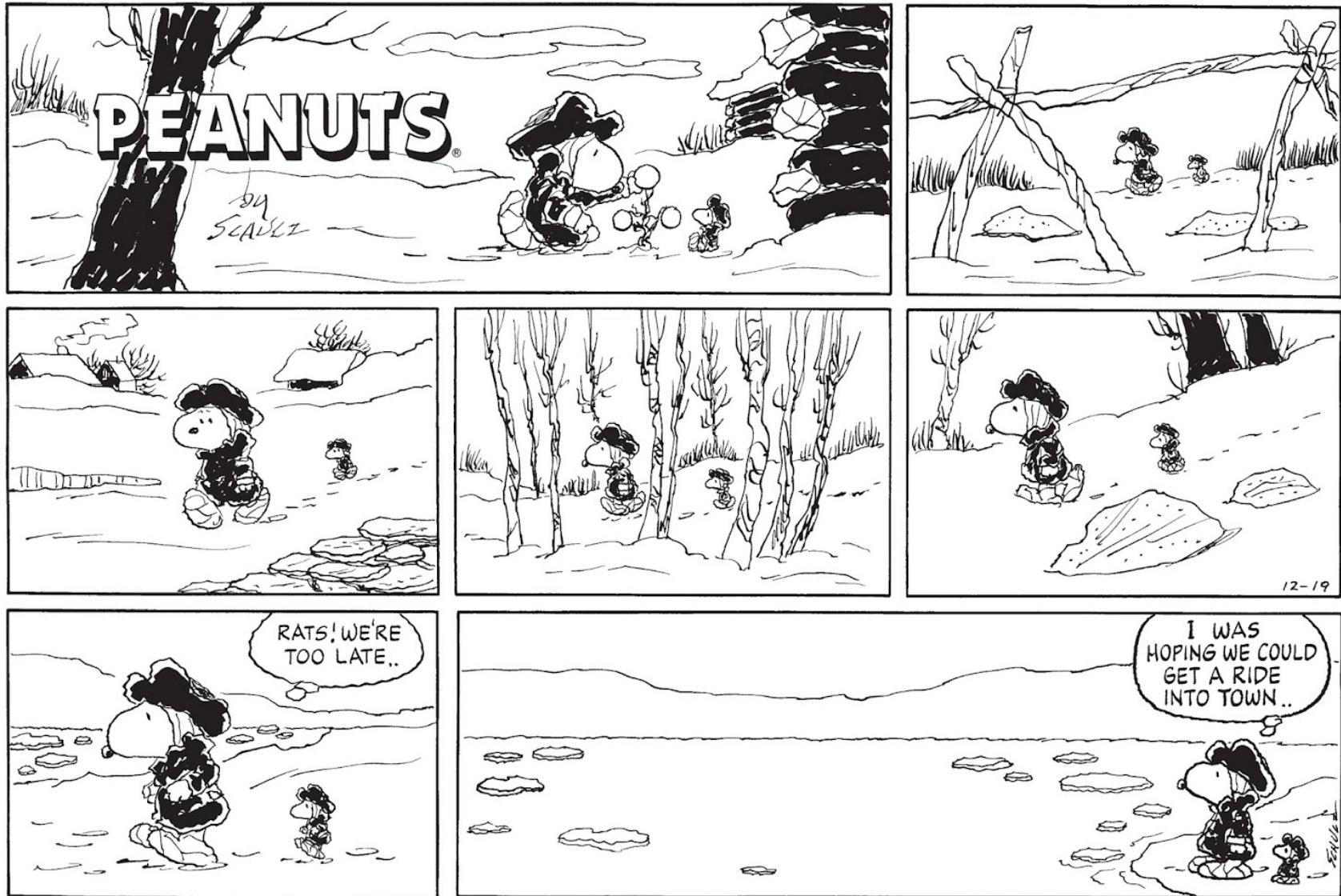




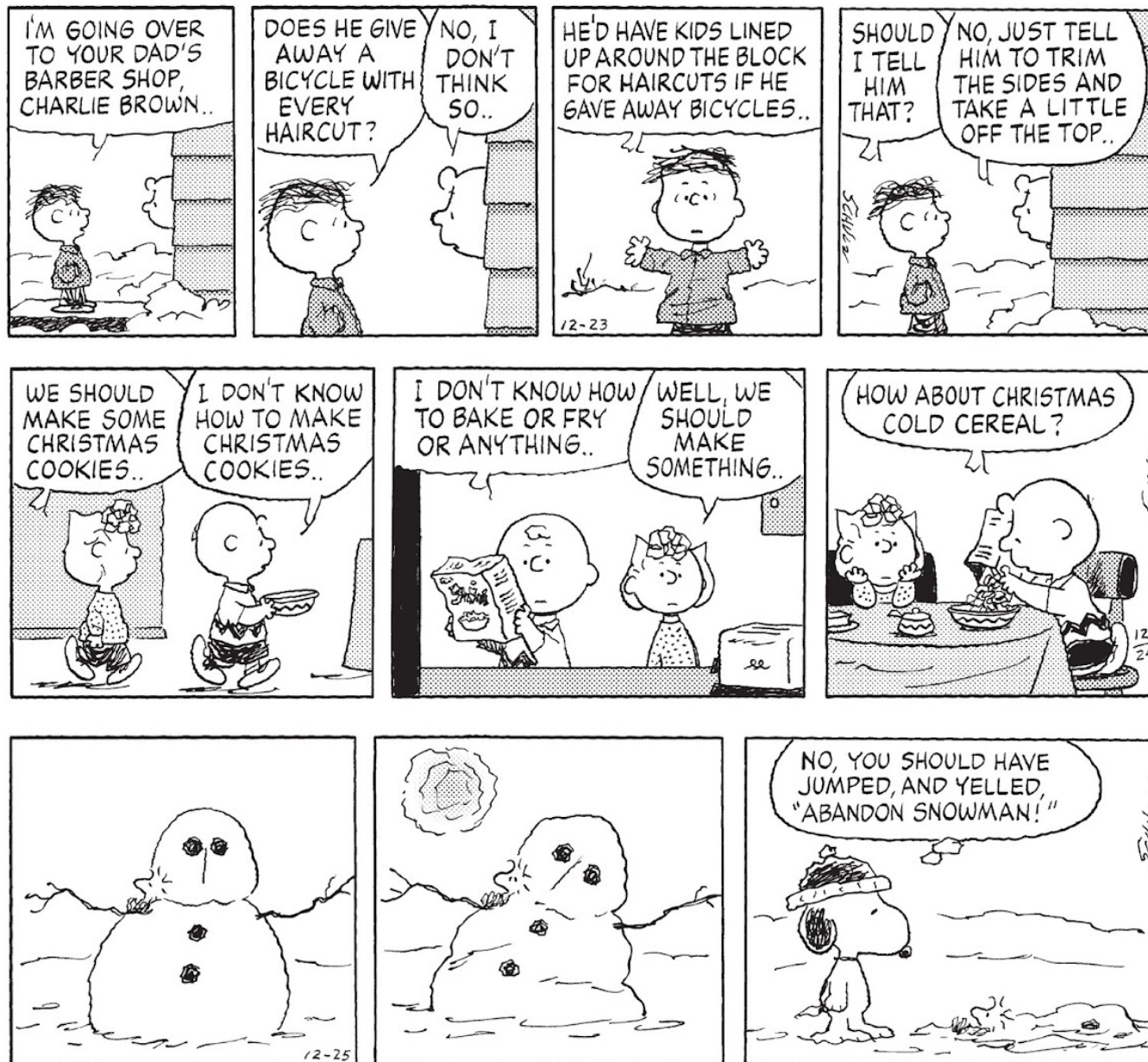


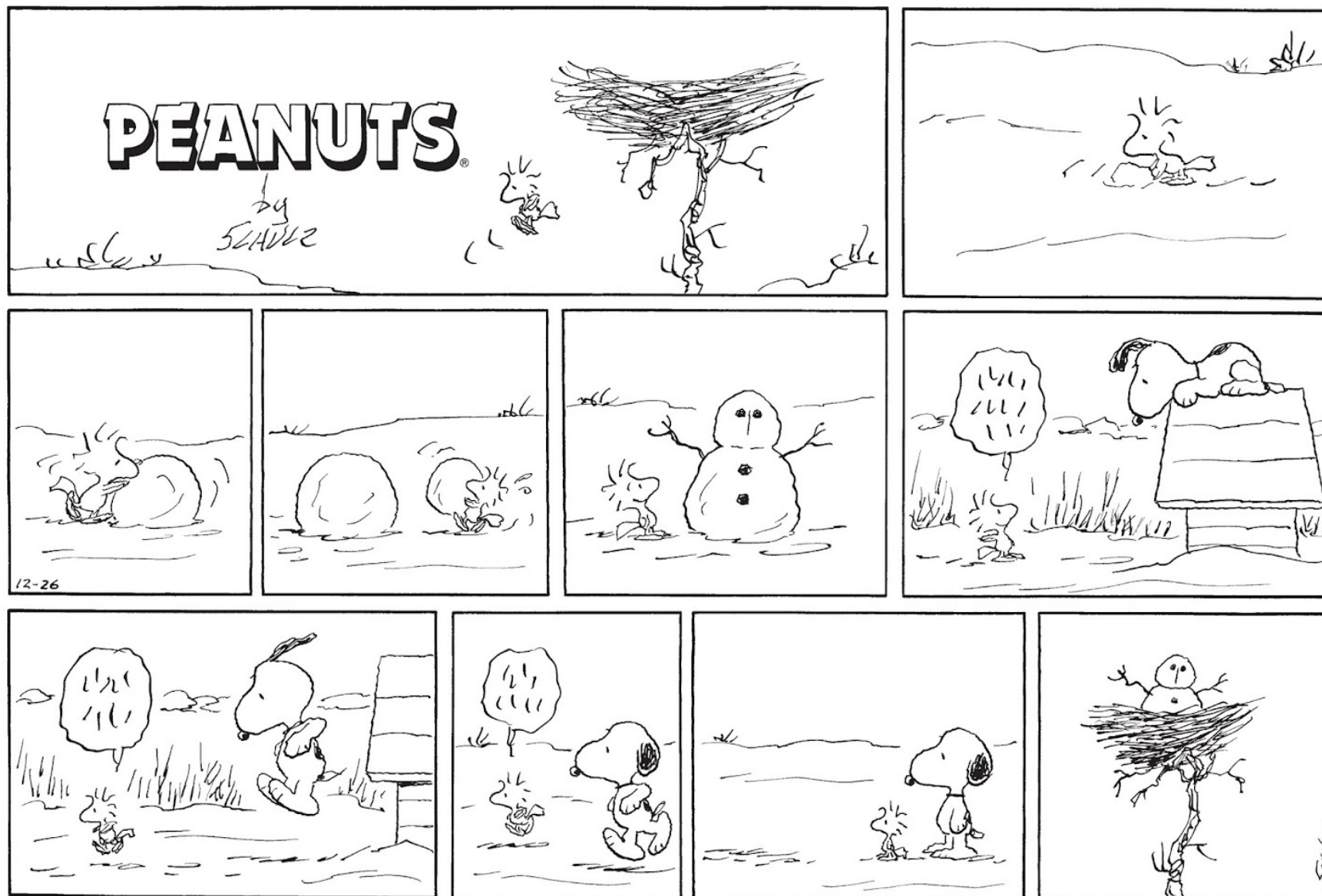


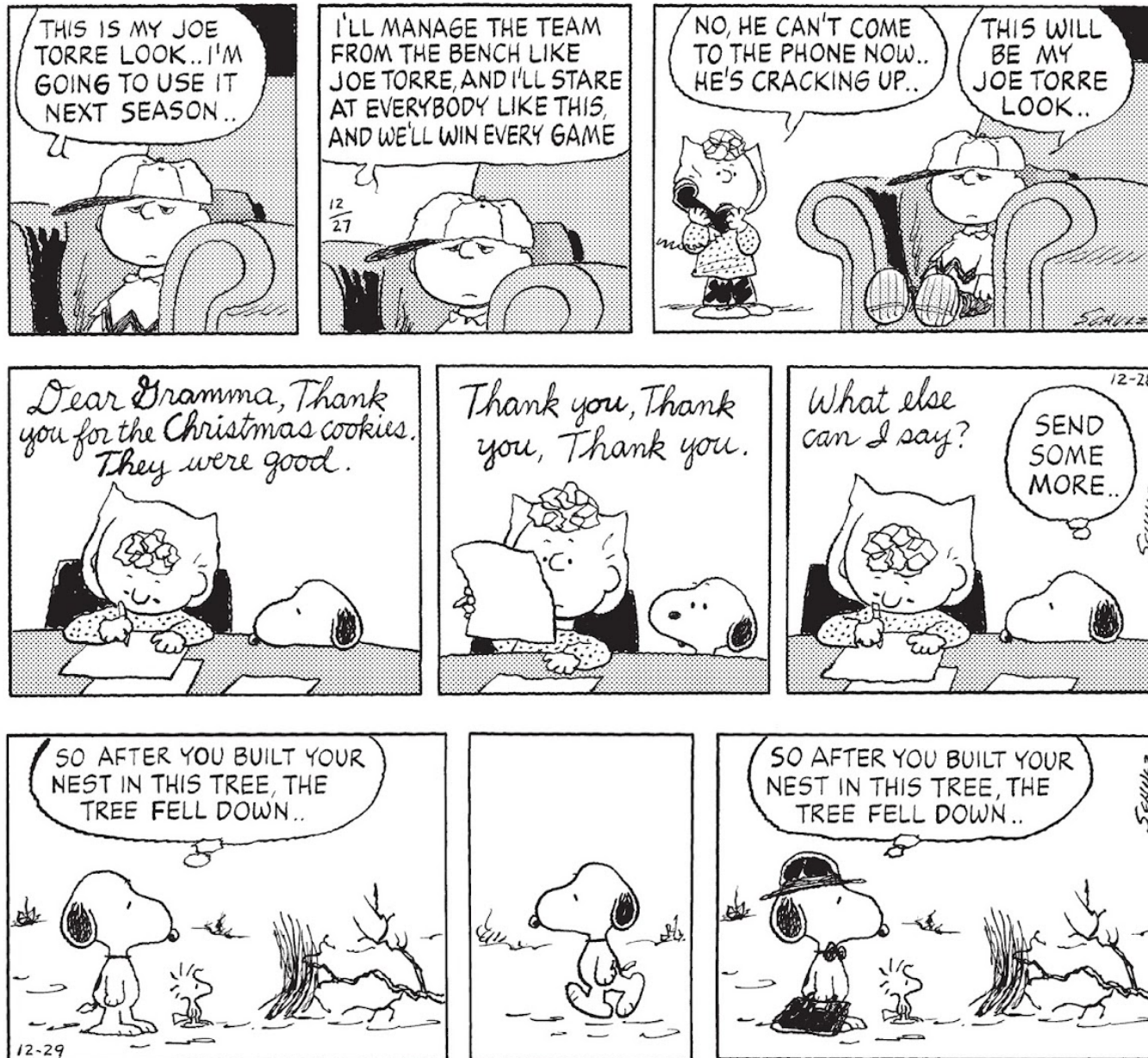


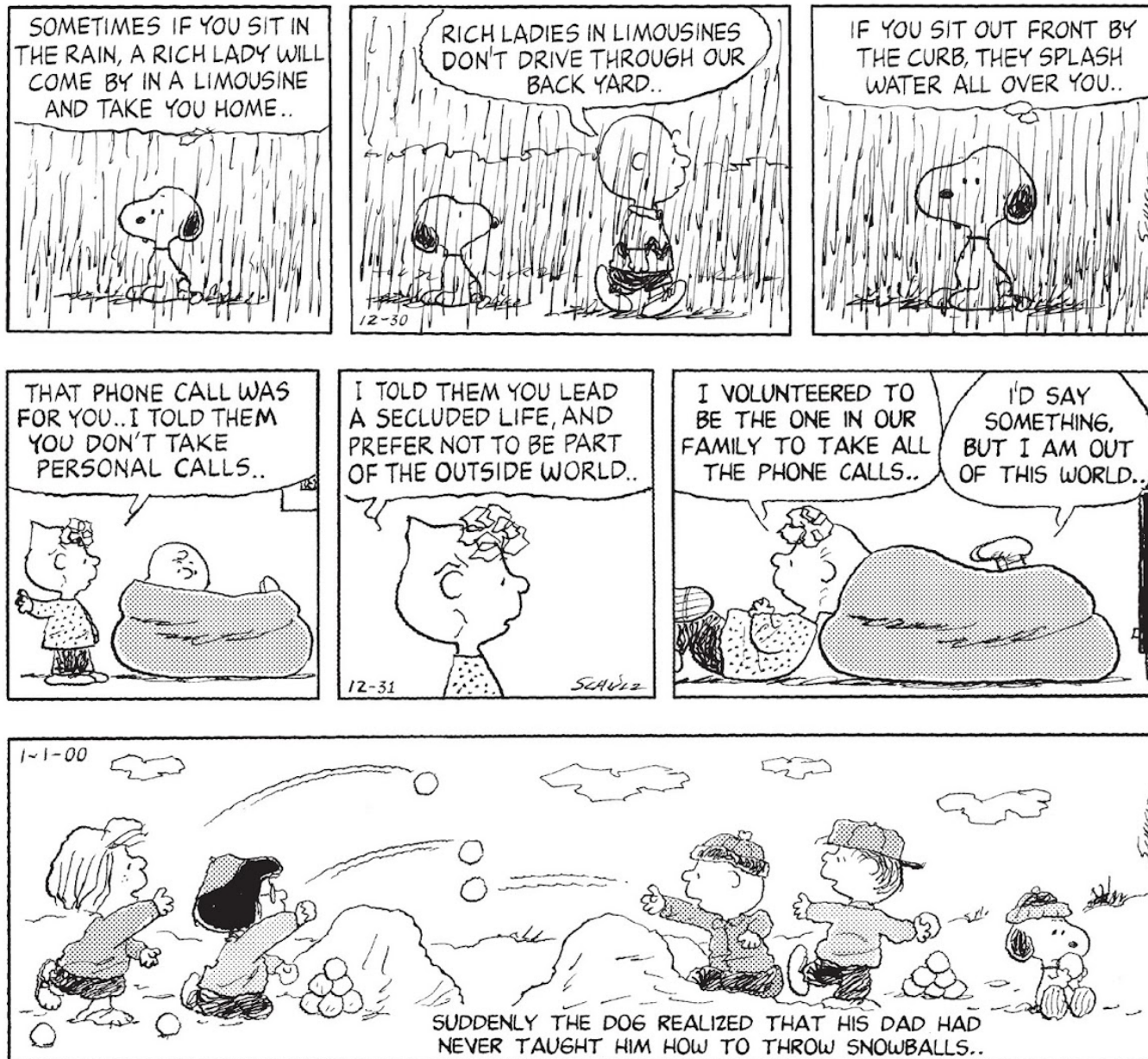




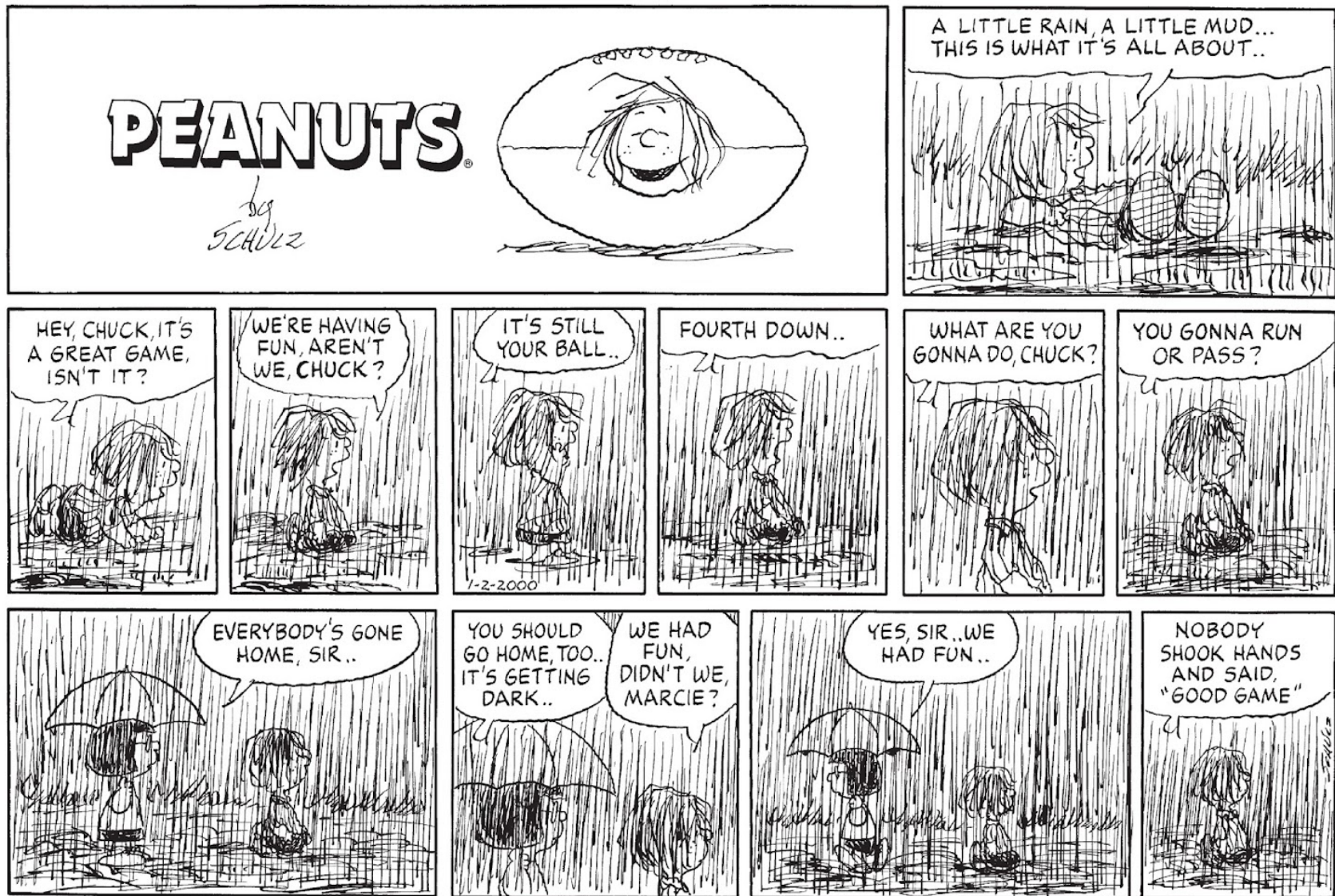


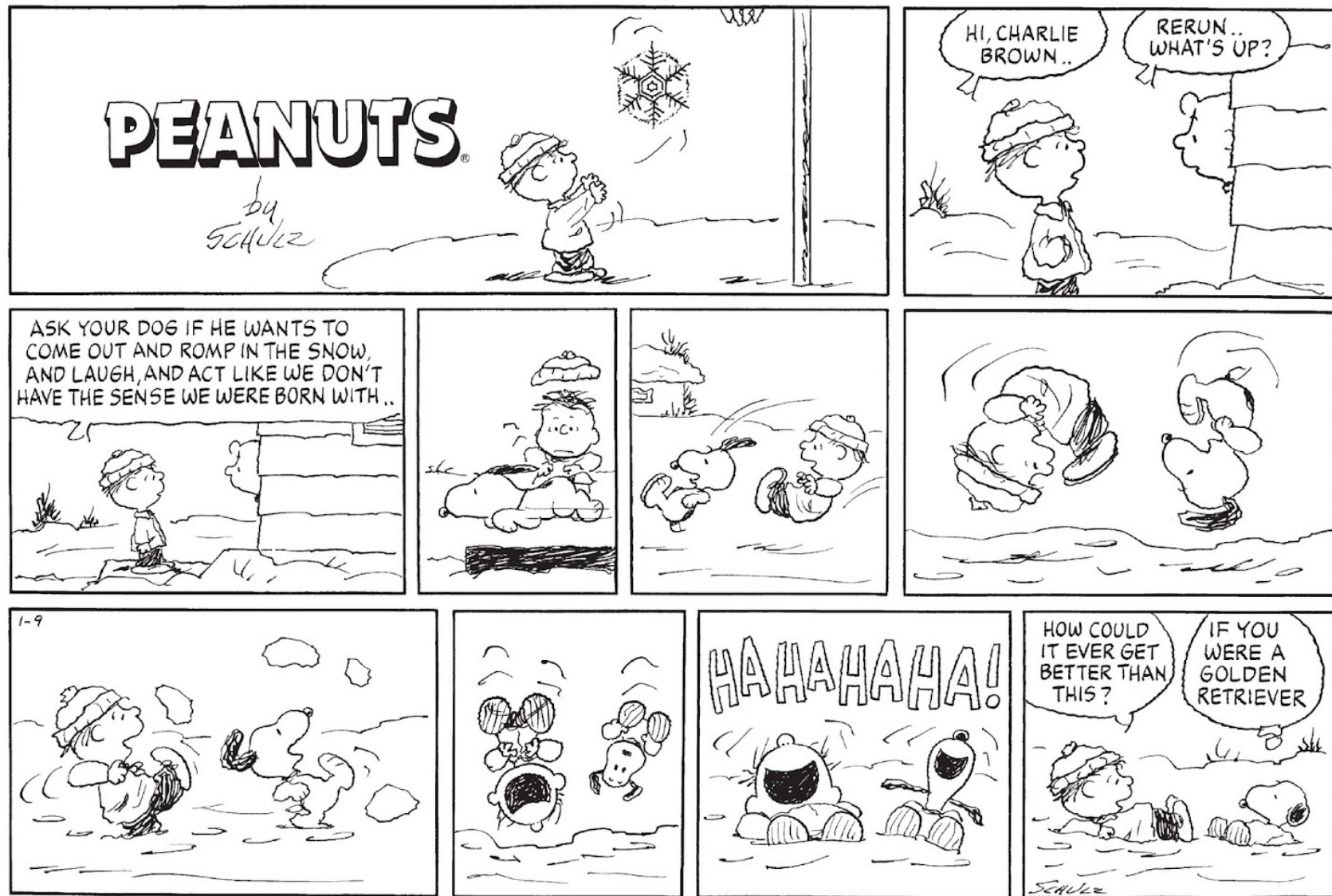




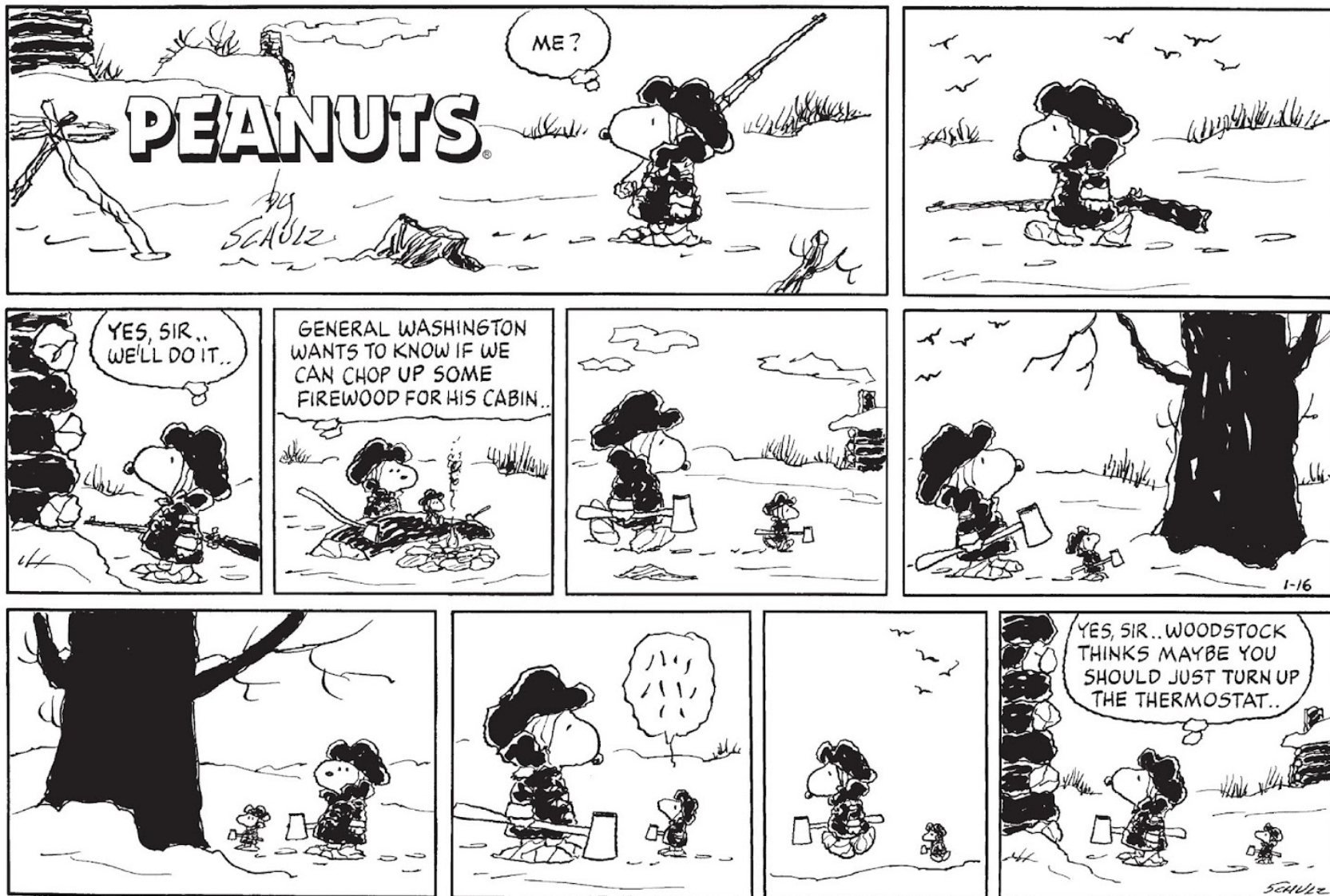


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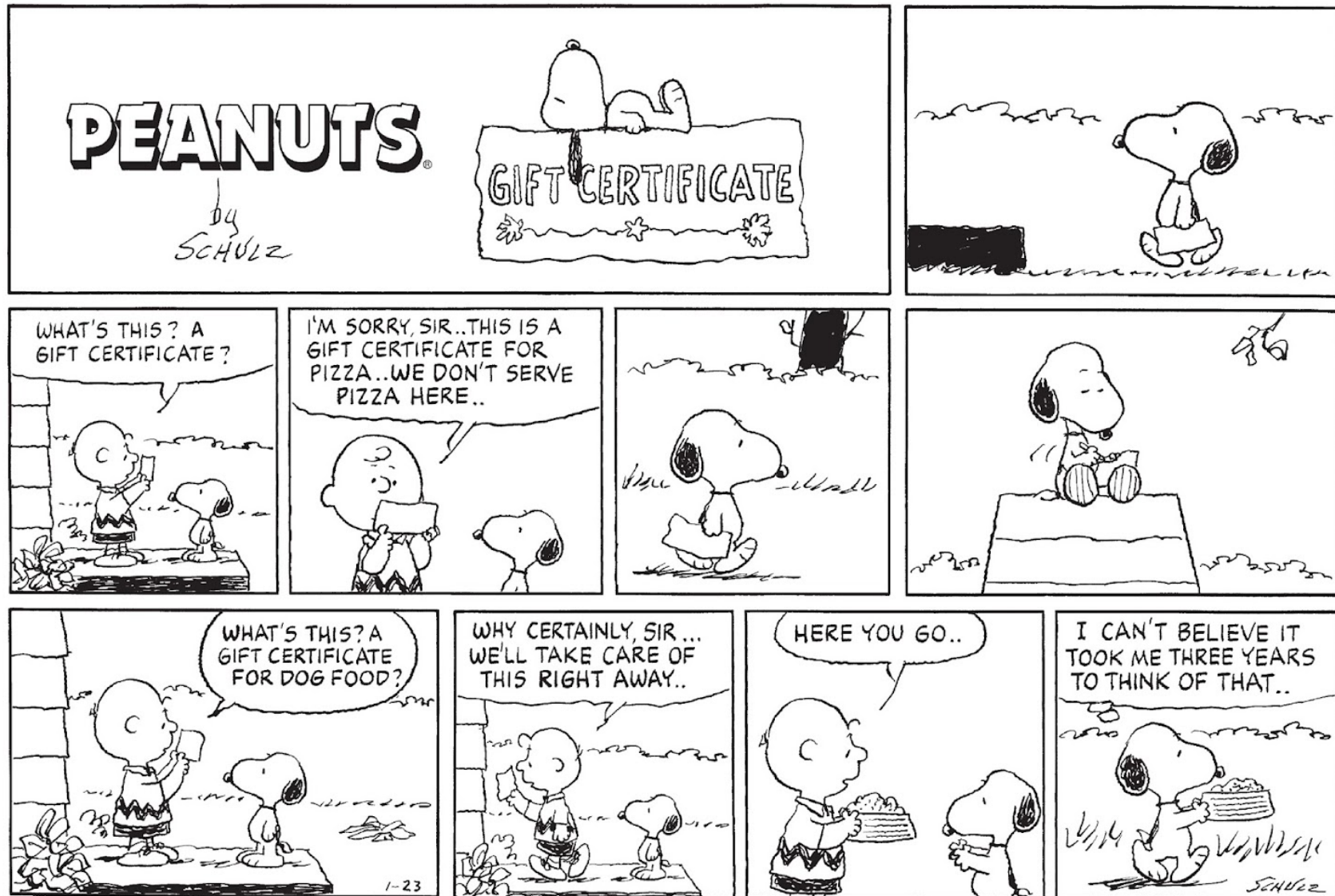


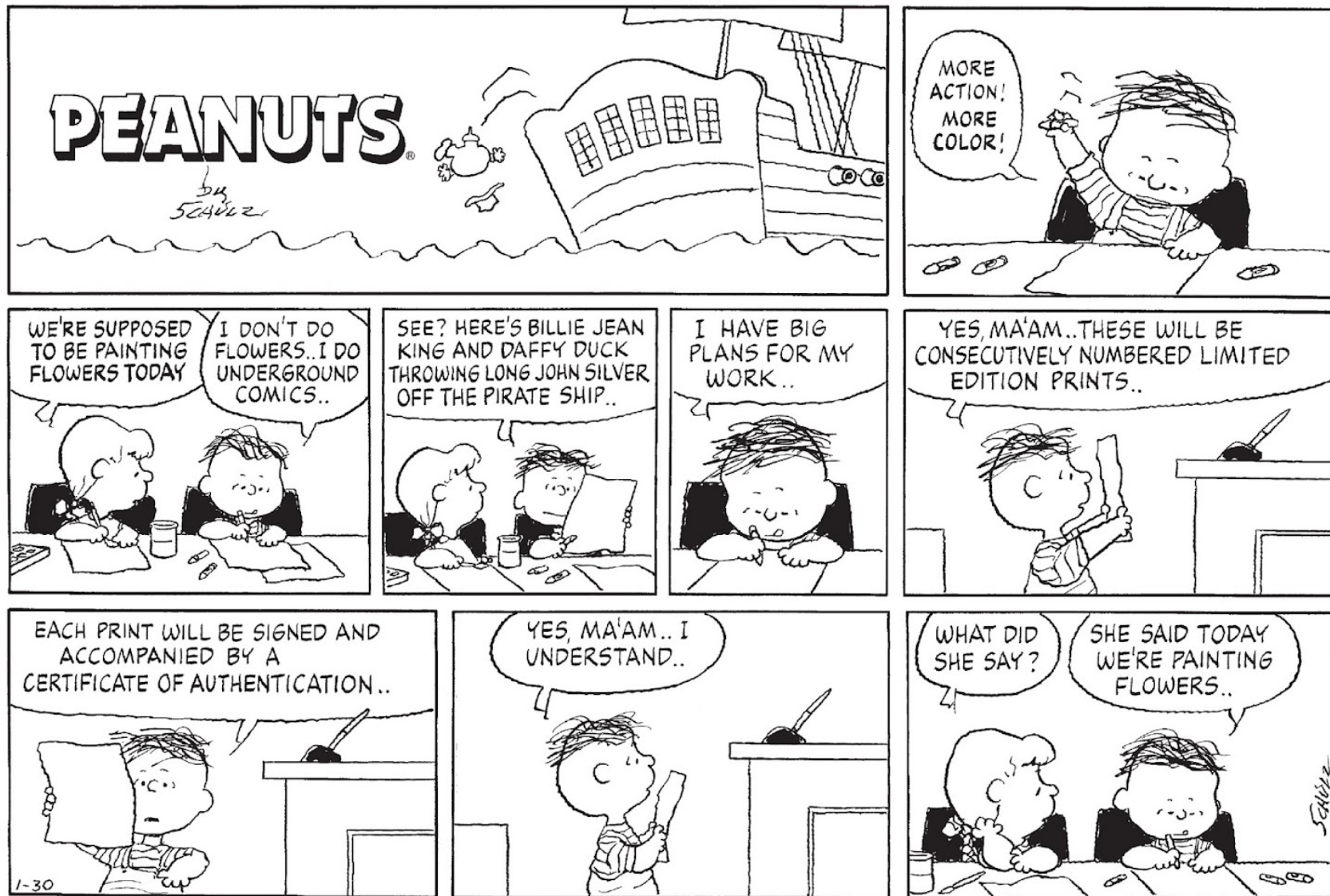


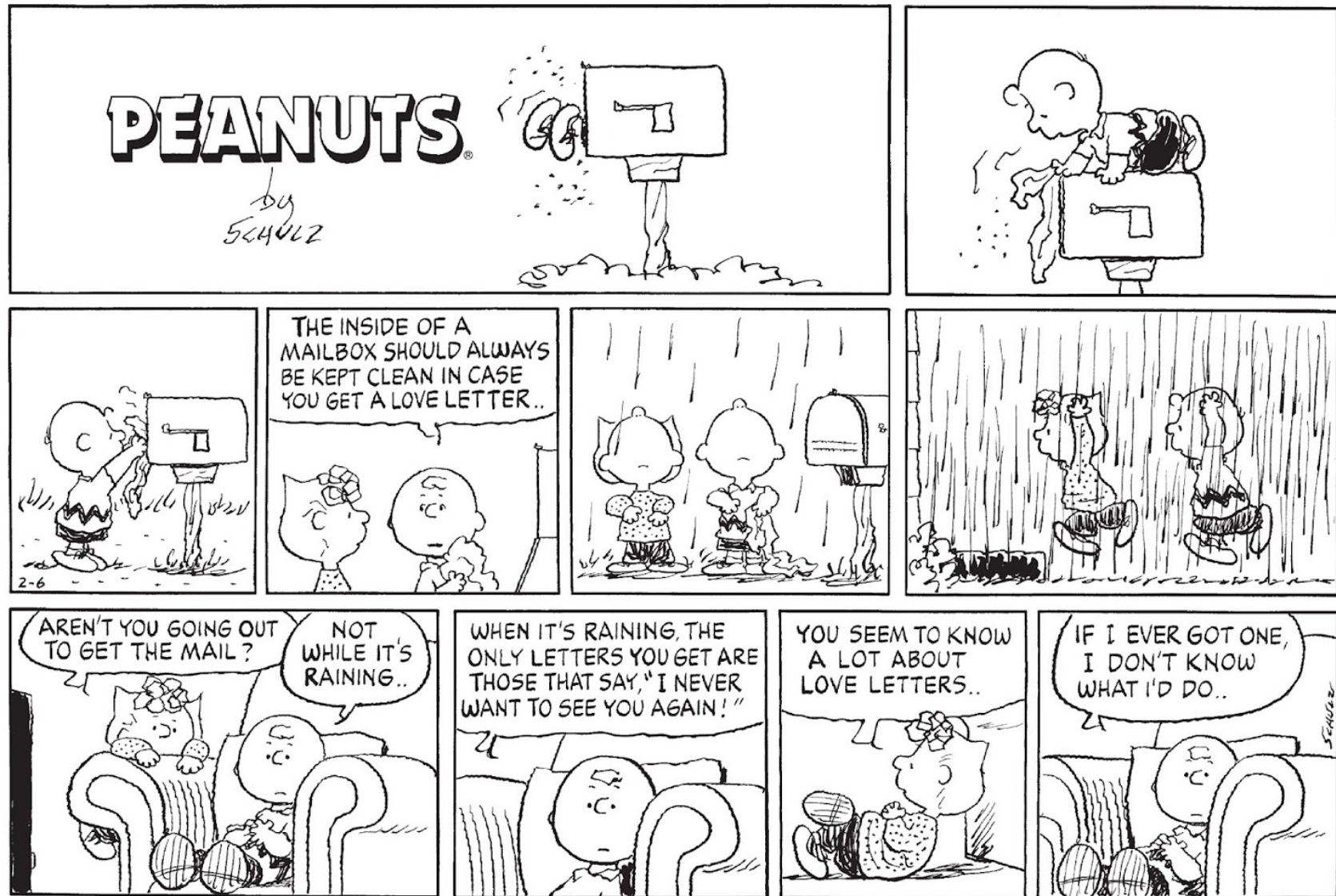
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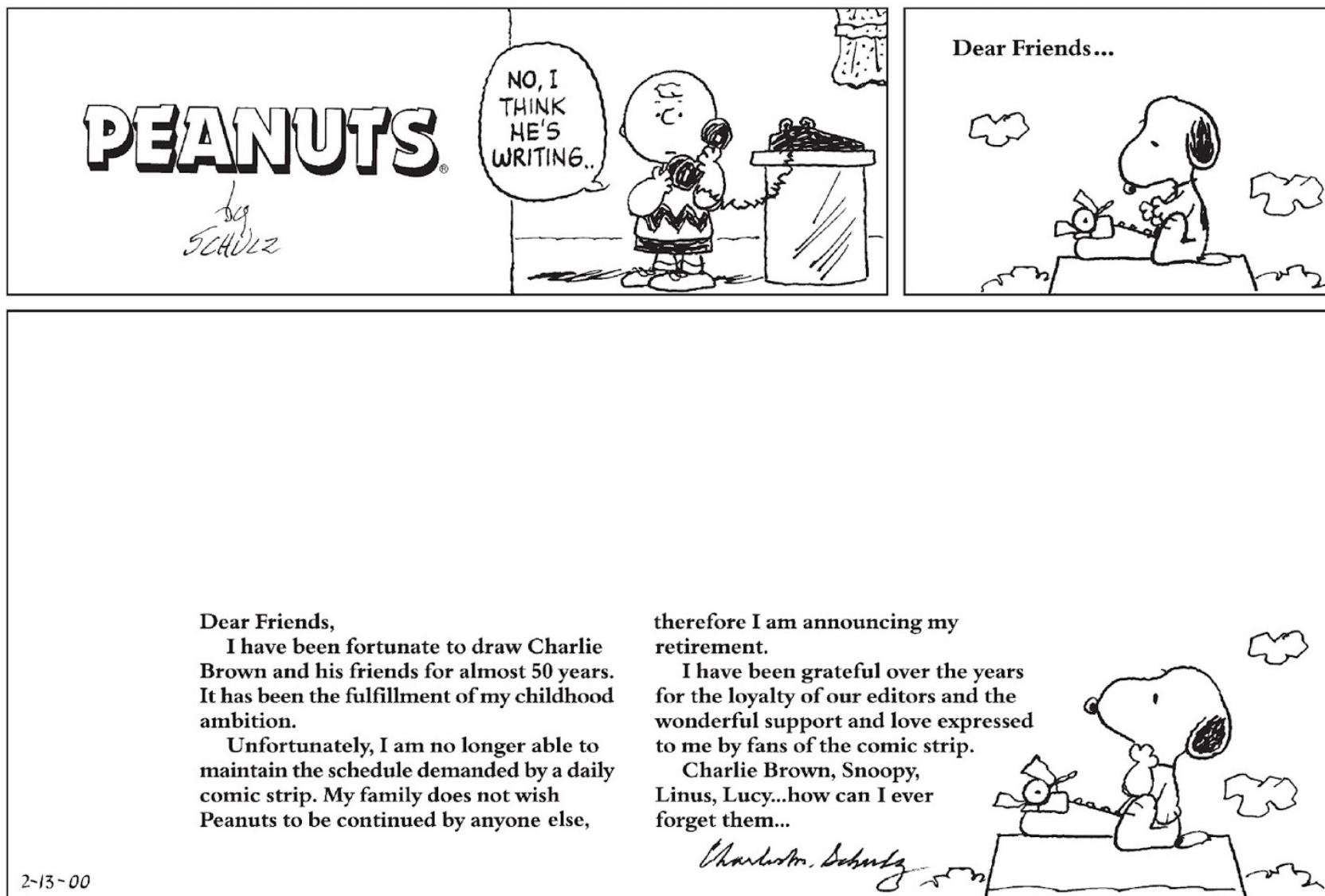


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Dear Friends,

I have been fortunate to draw Charlie Brown and his friends for almost 50 years. It has been the fulfillment of my childhood ambition.

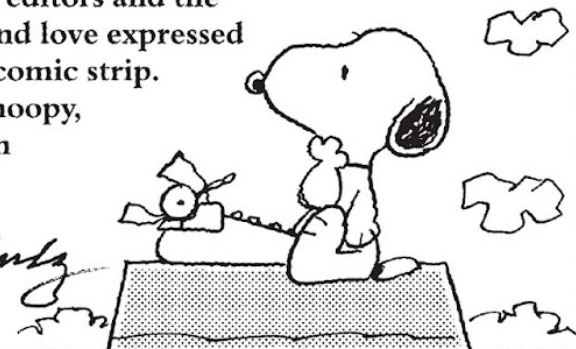
Unfortunately, I am no longer able to maintain the schedule demanded by a daily comic strip, therefore I am announcing my retirement.

1-3-00

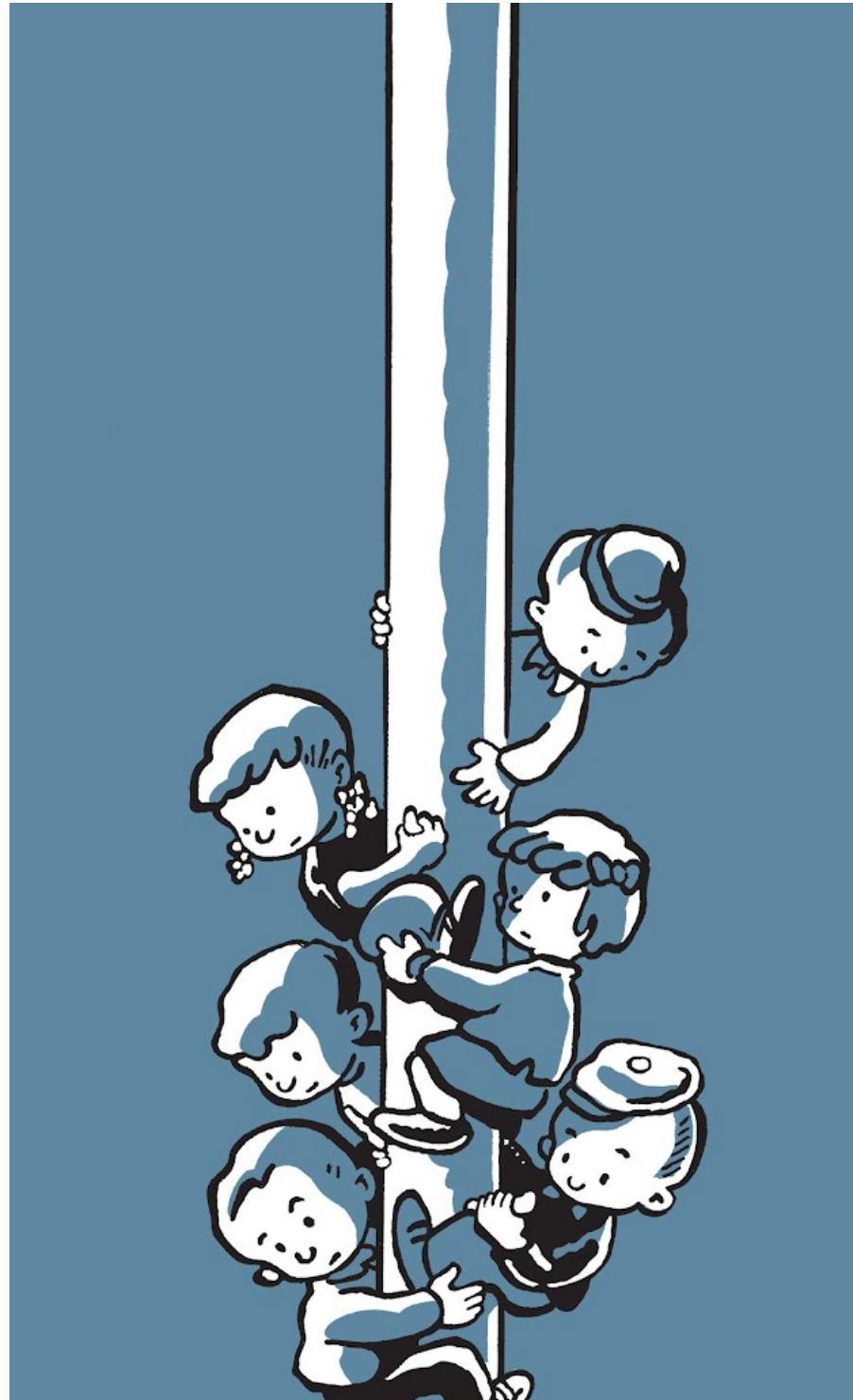
I have been grateful over the years for the loyalty of our editors and the wonderful support and love expressed to me by fans of the comic strip.

Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus, Lucy...how can I ever forget them....

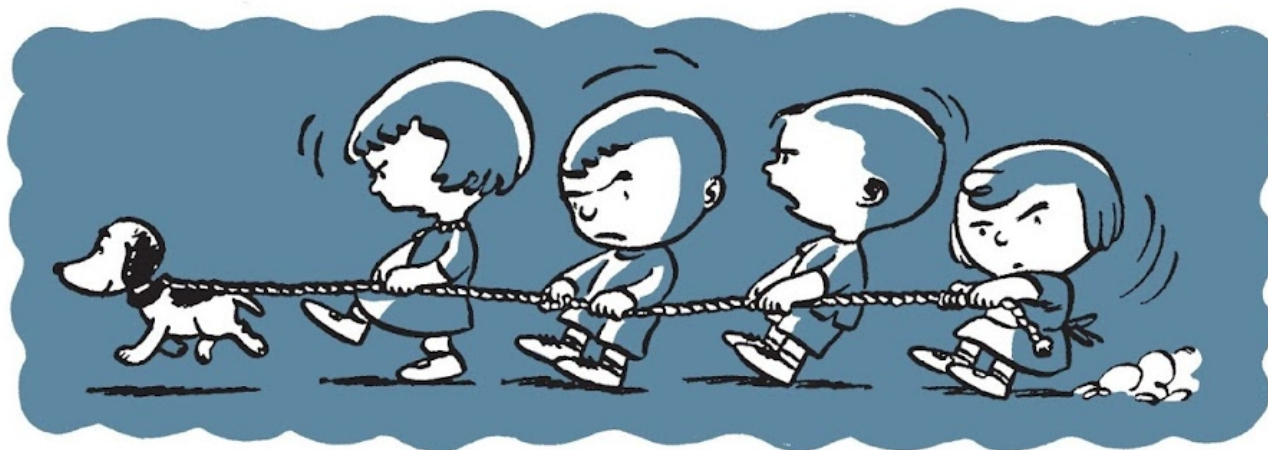
Charles M. Schulz



Charles Schulz died on the evening of February 12, 2000, mere hours before his final *Peanuts* strip ran the following day in over 2600 newspapers in 75 countries and was read by over 350 million people.







The *Peanuts* comic strip did not erupt full-blown from the mind of Charles Schulz on October 2, 1950. *Peanuts*, with its growing cast of characters and its recurring and evolving themes, was the result of Schulz's lifelong fascination with the comics form. He spent more than a decade of long hours and intense work obsessively learning every aspect of the craft of cartooning — from lettering to drawing to rendering to gag humor.

In 1946, Schulz was working at Art Instruction, Inc., an art correspondence school in Minneapolis, and submitting gag cartoons to the magazine market. He got his first big break with *Li'l Folks*. But even before *Li'l Folks*, he sold *Just Keep Laughing...* to a comic book called *Topix*, published by the Catechetical Guild Educational Society. *Topix* published two installments, Schulz said, but "the priest who was running the outfit didn't care for those, so that was the end of that."

But *Just Keep Laughing...* led to *Li'l Folks*: "One of the [*Just Keep Laughing...*] cartoons showed a small boy who looked prophetically like Schroeder sitting on the curb with a baseball bat in his hands talking to a little girl who looked prophetically like Patty. He was saying, 'I think I could learn to love you, Judy, if your batting average was a little higher.' Frank Wing, my fellow instructor at Art Instruction, said, 'Sparky, I think you should draw more of

those little kids. They are pretty good.' So I concentrated on creating a group of samples and eventually sold them as a weekly feature called *Li'l Folks* to the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*."

Li'l Folks, a weekly gag feature composed of three or four independent panels, ran on the women's page. Schulz was paid \$10 per installment for writing and drawing it. After two-and-a-half years, he asked for a better location in the newspaper. He was told no. He asked to appear daily. No, again. Finally, he asked for a raise. No.

"When he turned me down on all three counts," Schulz said, "I suggested that perhaps I had better quit. He merely said, 'All right.' Thus endeth my career at the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*." *Li'l Folks* ran from June 22, 1947 to January 22, 1950.

Li'l Folks is the most fully realized creative antecedent to *Peanuts*, which, in Schulz's own words, "gave me a chance to develop my drawing and my creativity." One can see Schulz's cartoon universe taking shape throughout the *Li'l Folks* run. The gag panels included a genteel child pianist/violinist who loved Beethoven, a goofy little dog, a boy named Charlie Brown (the name of one of Schulz's fellow teachers at Art Instruction), the theme of unrequited love, an ongoing tension between boys and girls, and the conspicuous absence of adults. Speaking about *Li'l Folks* in 1987, Schulz commented, "Some of them are pretty good. I look at them, and they were all right, but it was a growing process." In fact, it grew into *Peanuts*.

For ten months after the last appearance of *Li'l Folks*, Schulz tried to sell it to a newspaper syndicate, finally submitting his proposal to United Feature Syndicate.

In order to increase his chances of selling the strip, he offered a second format option: he expanded the single-panel gags into a daily continuity strip, an exercise that certainly taught him about the visual rhythms of sequential storytelling.

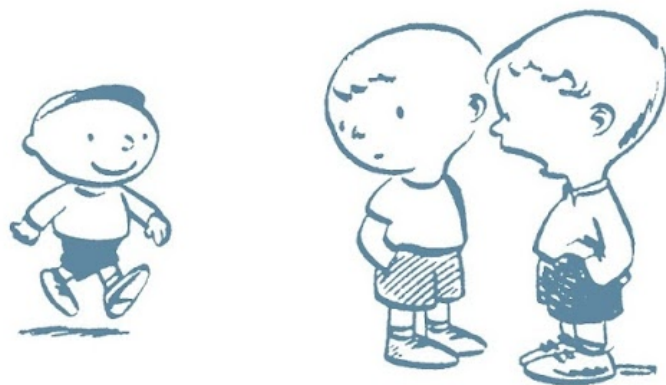
When he visited the syndicate's offices, Schulz said, "I had brought along a new comic strip I had been working on rather than the panel cartoons which United Feature Syndicate had seen [earlier]. I wanted to give them a better view of my work. They decided they would rather publish the strip than the panel. That made me very happy, for I really preferred the strip to the panel."

That single editorial decision in 1950 gave a young cartoonist the artistic latitude he needed to create one of the most phenomenal comic strips of all time.

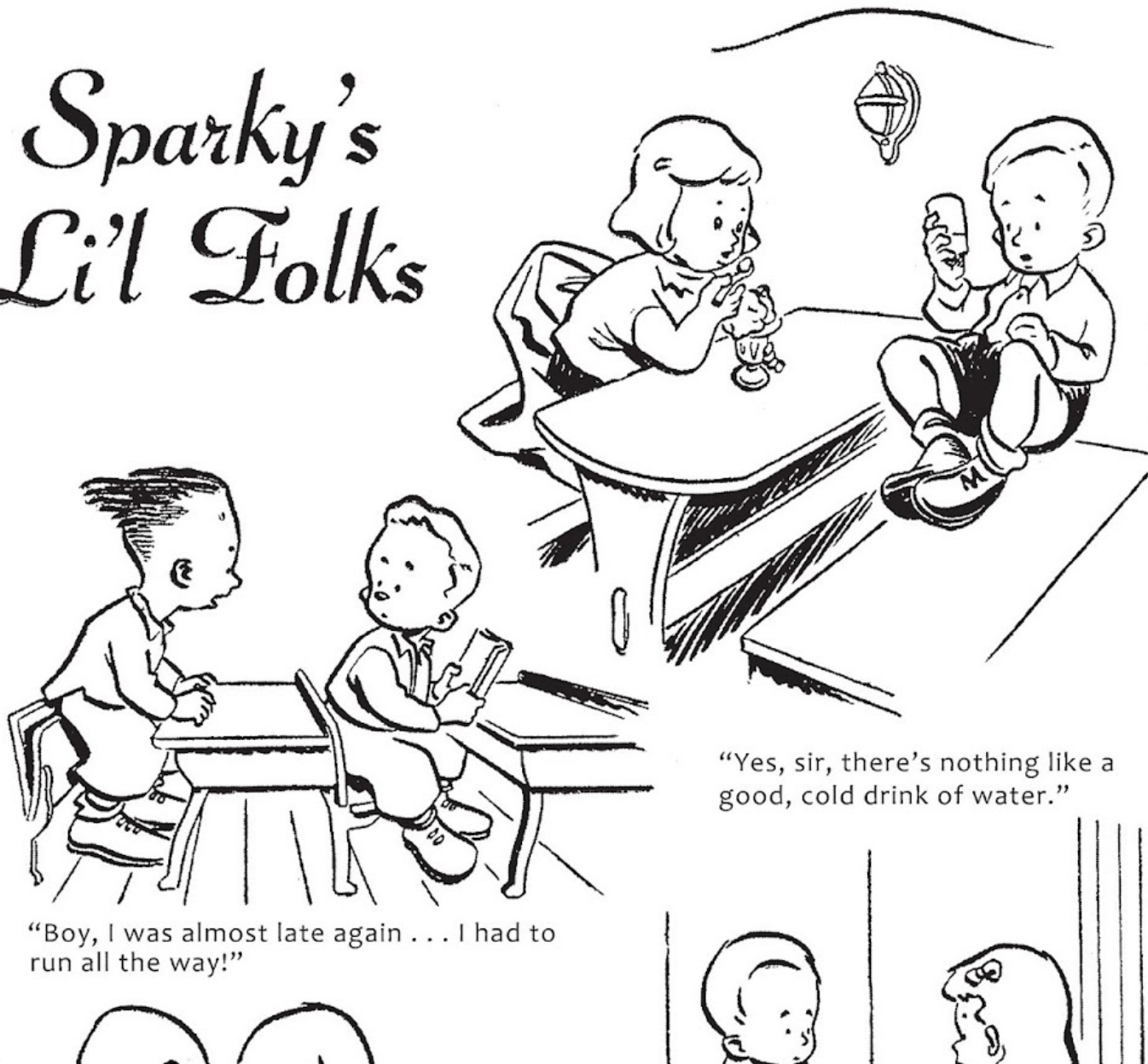
This volume of *The Complete Peanuts* prints the last *Peanuts* strip that Charles Schulz drew. It is appropriate now, as we come full circle, to also

present *Li'l Folks*, the cartoon strip that immediately presaged *Peanuts* and started it all.

—Gary Groth

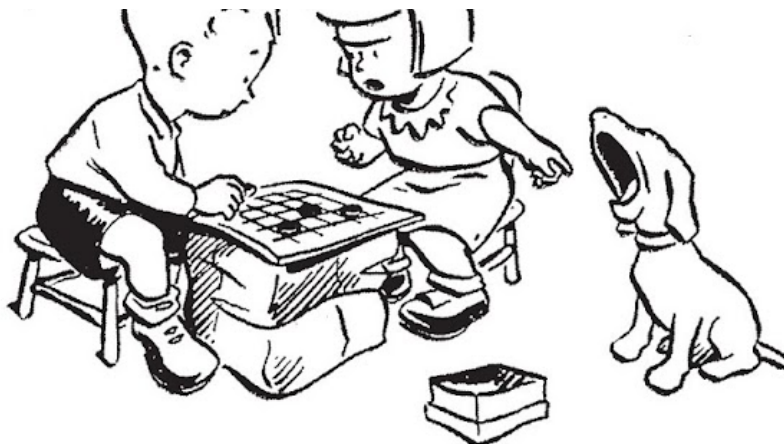


Sparky's Li'l Folks

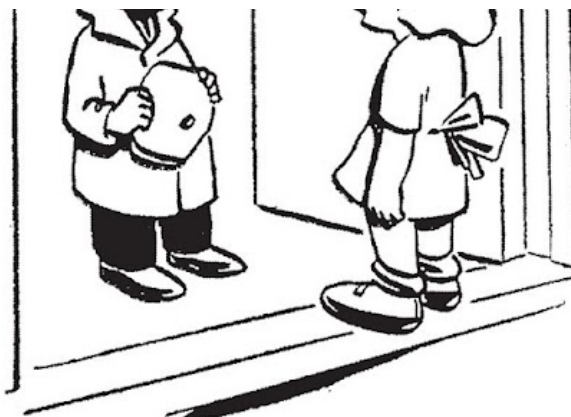


"Boy, I was almost late again . . . I had to run all the way!"

"Yes, sir, there's nothing like a good, cold drink of water."



"If he yawns just once more, I'm going home!"



"Mom says you can come in if you'll promise not to wrestle any more with Grandma."

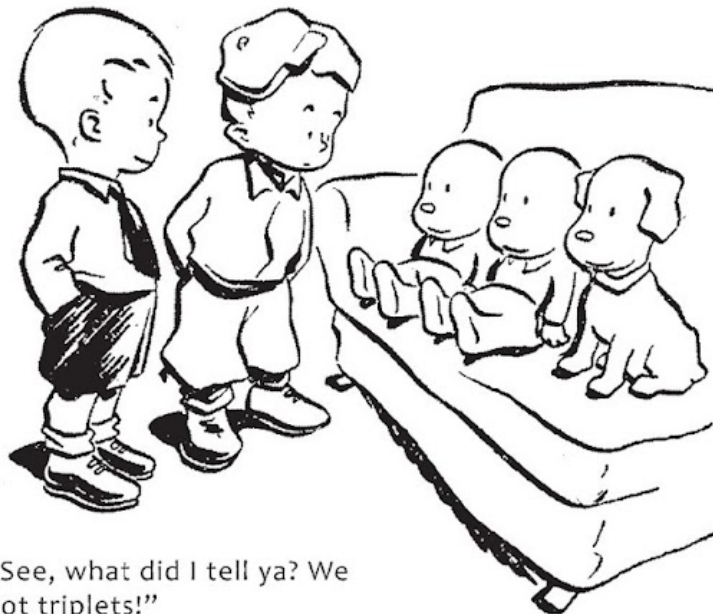
June 8, 1947

June 15, 1947

Sparky's Li'l Folks



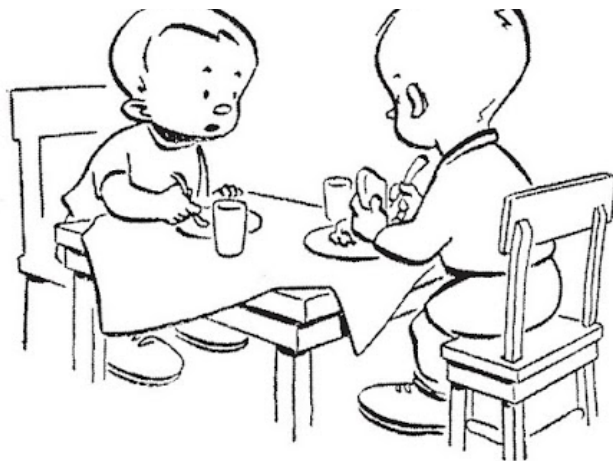
It's a pretty good raincoat even though Ma did make it out of an old innertube."



"See, what did I tell ya? We got triplets!"



"I don't see why you have to carry all those marbles in one pocket."



"If you don't like the meatballs, save them
and we'll throw 'em at the kid next door."

Page 171



"I do wish you'd get up . . .
You're embarrassing me."

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"We been playin' tag."



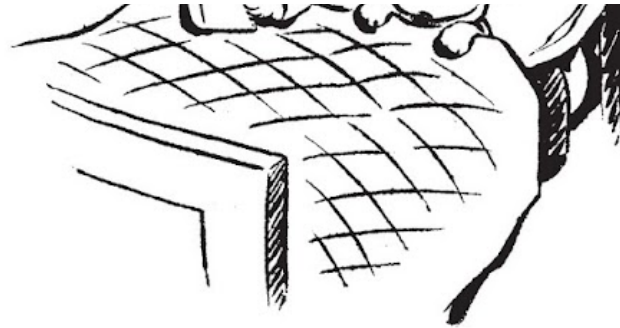
"Oh, rats, you never want to do anything."



June 22, 1947



"Mom says I can't elope with you tonight . . . I've got too much homework to do."



"I always read in bed so might just as well get used to it!"

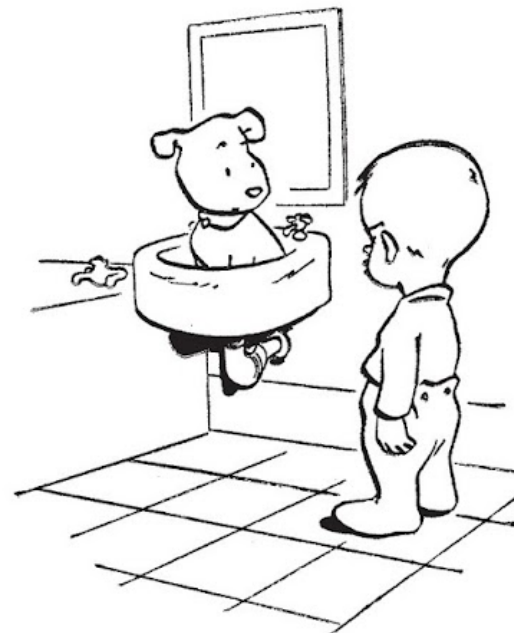
June 29, 1947

Li'l Folks

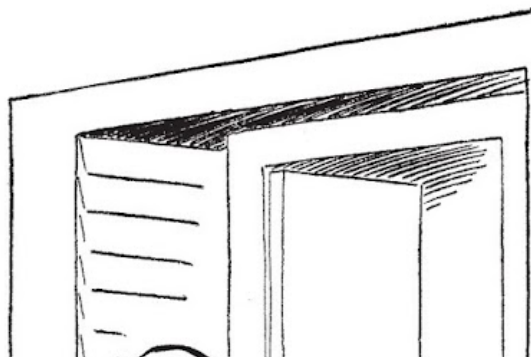
BY SPARKY

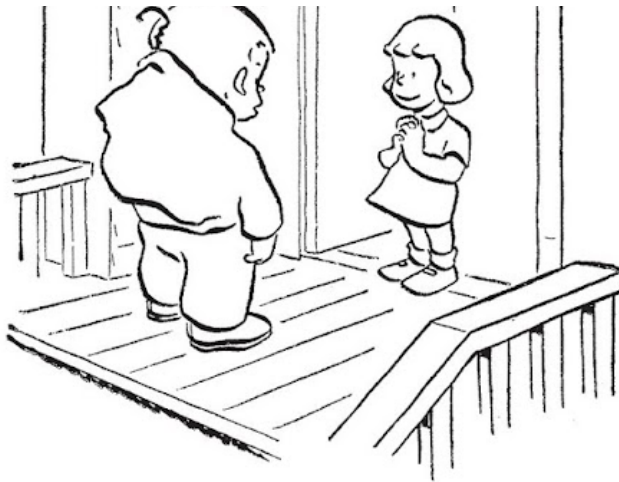


"Twenty - two, eleventy - six, twelvty-four . . ."

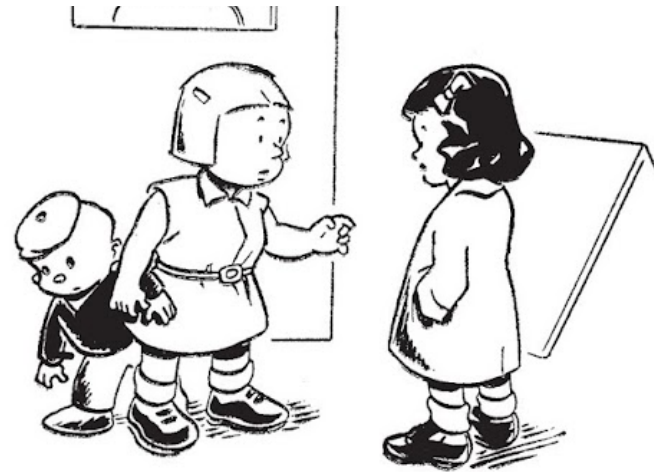


"Now look here . . . I don't care if you are scared of mice . . . you have to go to bed sometime!"





"What makes you think I get so excited over coming to see you?"



"Are you sure you can get in for twelve cents with all that lipstick on?"



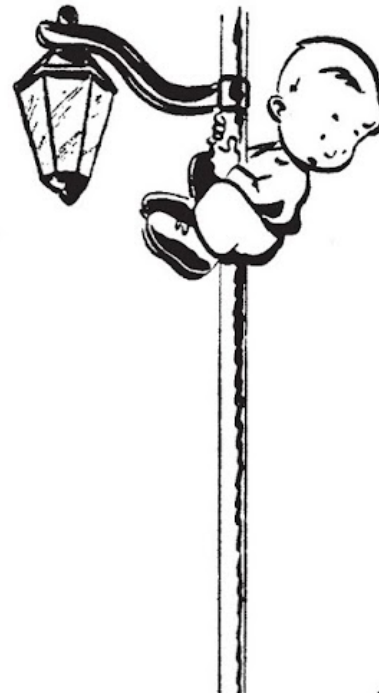
Li'l Folks

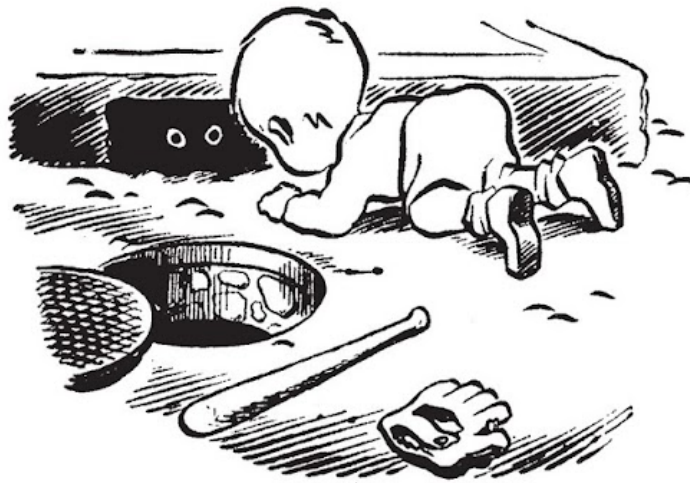
BY SPARKY

"And then we'll have ice-cream, an' cake, and lots of presents for everybody so you go ask your mother if you can come."



"You might as well turn around. You're not fooling anybody!"





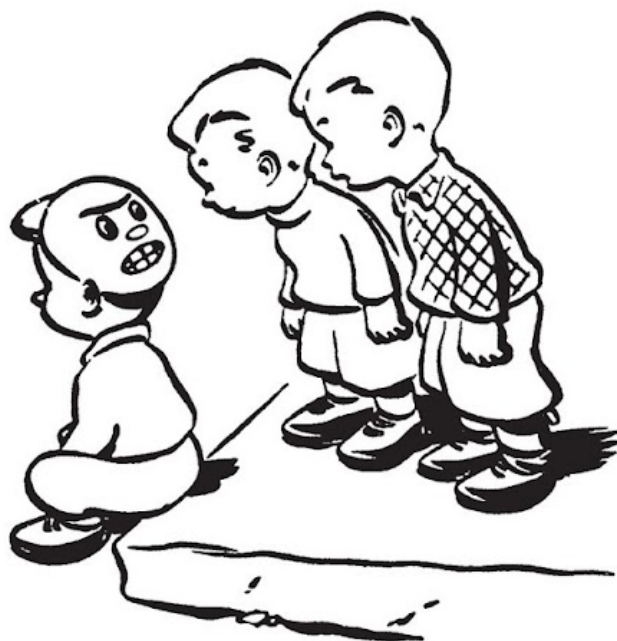
"Did you find the ball, Jimmy? . . . or aren't you Jimmy?"



"I don't understand. . . .
There's no lightswitch up here
either!"

July 6, 1947

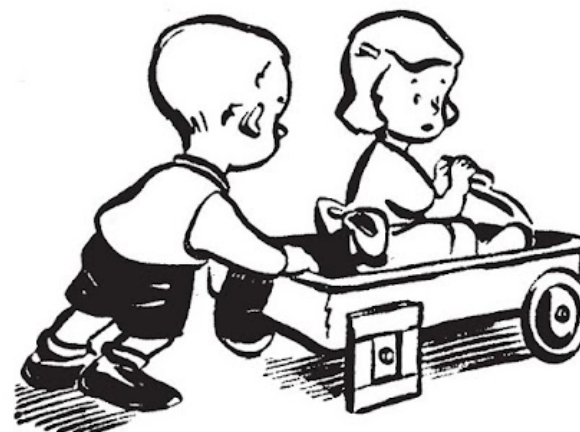
July 13, 1947



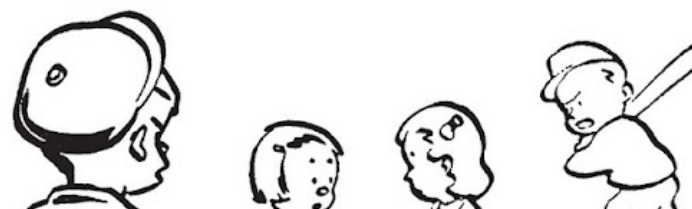
"We better lay off this guy . . . He looks plenty tough."

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"Y'know . . . This thing doesn't ride so well since you fixed it."





“Well, if you’re gonna fall asleep
all the time, I might as well stop
reading.”

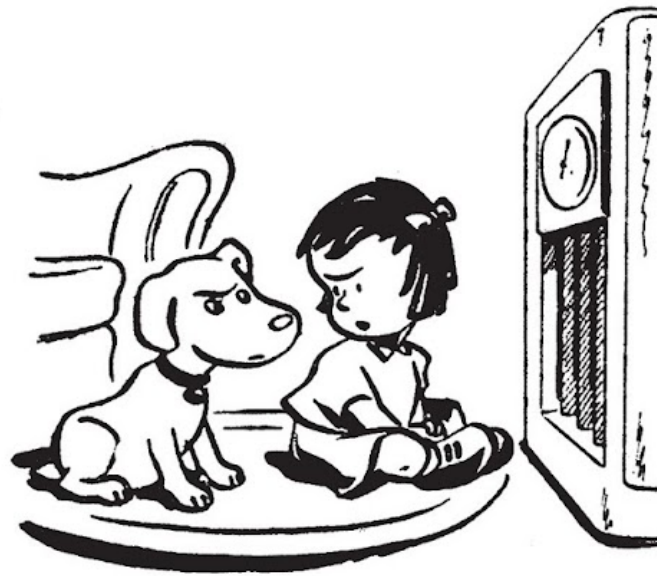
“Do you hear someone yelling?”

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"Don't mind Jimmy. . . . He's sort of bashful."



"Oh, stop looking so interested. . . . You don't even know who's talking!"





“And then I would have pitched a no-hit game, and hit three home runs, but I was too young to get in the game!”

July 20, 1947

“All right you guys. . . . Who put in the mothball?”

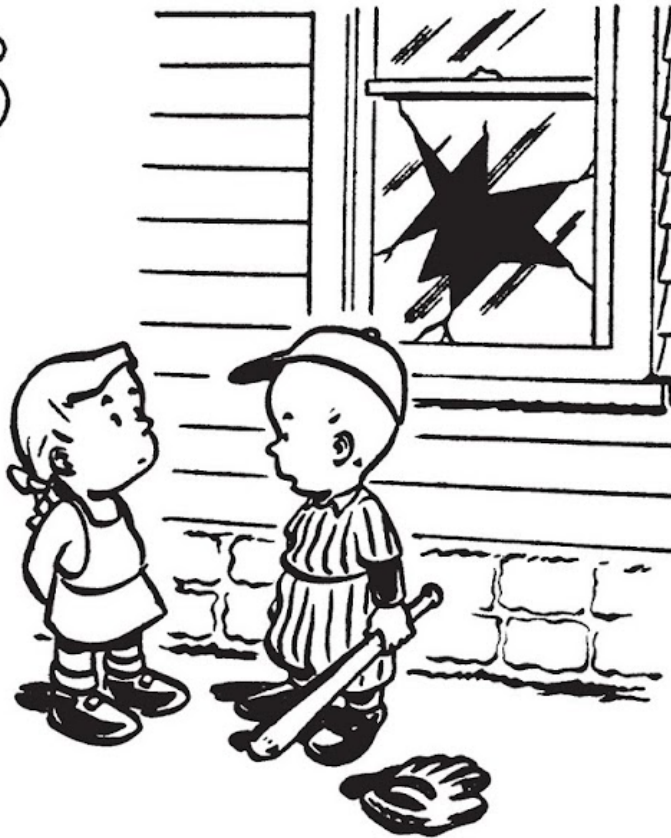
July 27, 1947

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

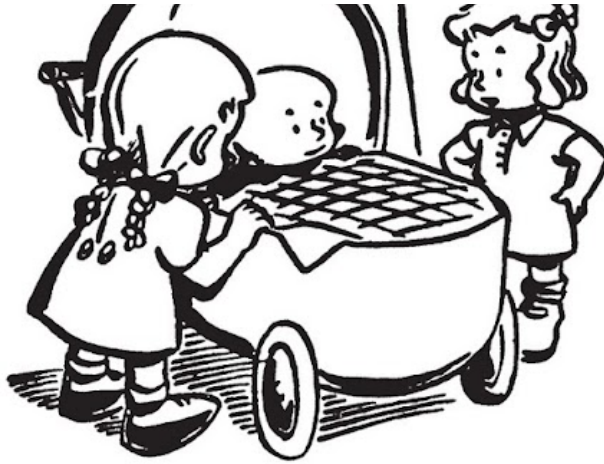


"If you're trying to make me jealous, you're wasting your time!"

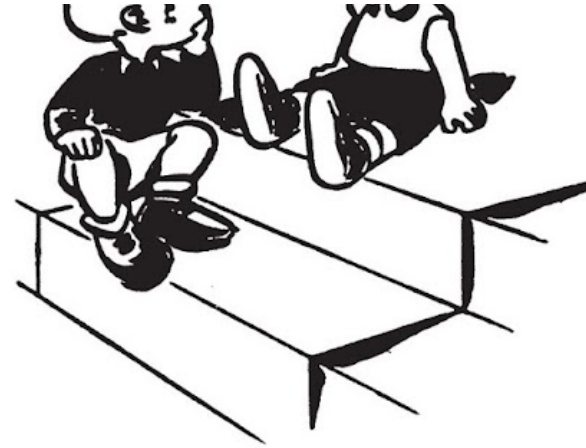


"Did you ever have the feeling of impending doom?"





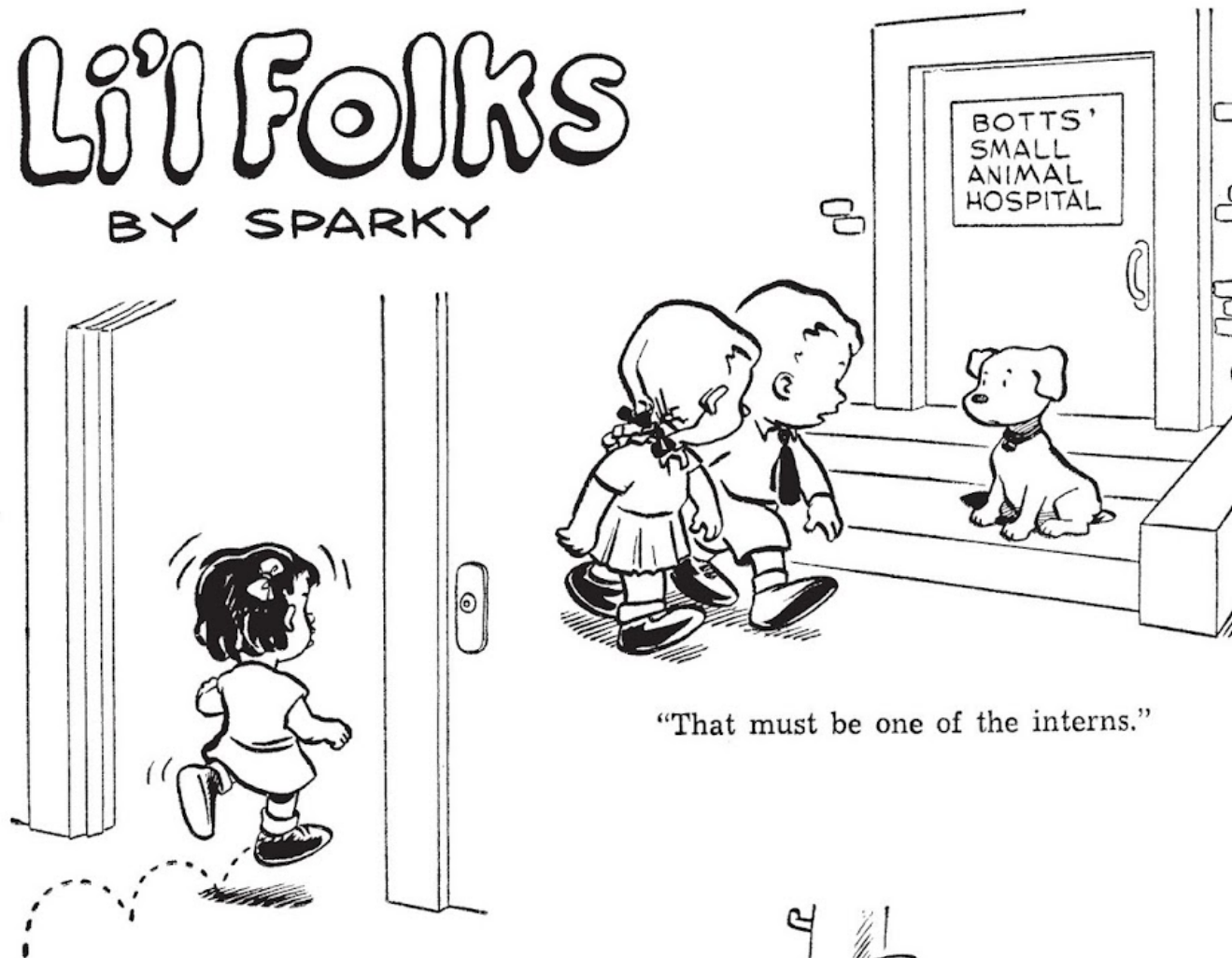
"I'm not sure, but I think we got him with cereal box-tops."



"... Your eyes ... your hair ... your new tricycle with the big red wheels ..."

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"That must be one of the interns."

"We been playing hop-scotch."





"Well, it looks like our little game is about to come to an end!"



"Do you realize that I'm almost 6 years old? And what have I accomplished . . . Nothing!"

August 3, 1947

August 10, 1947

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

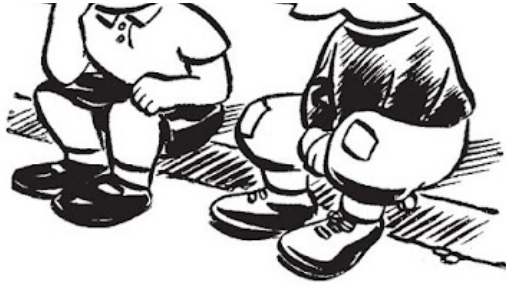


"You moved!"

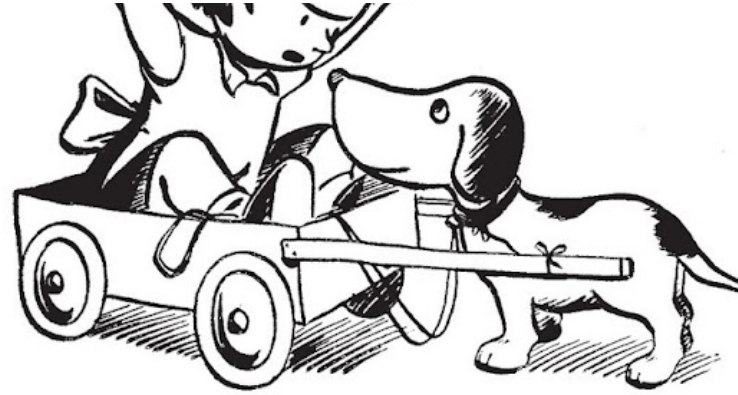


"Happy birthday to you ...
"Happy birthday to you ...
"Happy birthday, dear ...
"What did you say your
name was?"





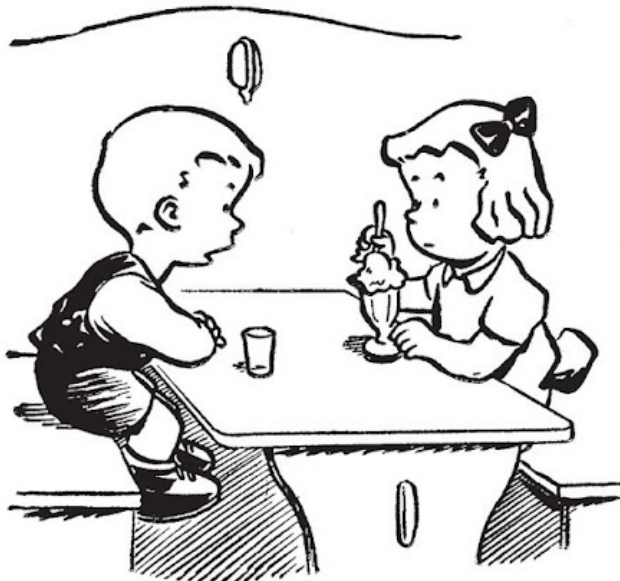
"Y'know, if you were sure that you and I were going to the same high school, I'd ask you to the senior prom."



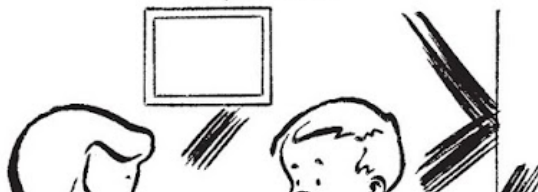
"No, no, no! . . . You don't seem to understand!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"Y' know, I've come to regard our meeting as being something almost symbolic."



"This started out to be a Russian wolfhound, but due to the present world situation I've decided to change it to a collie."



August 17, 1947



"Why should your mother get mad? I think it brightens up the place."



"There, that's fine . . . now don't move "

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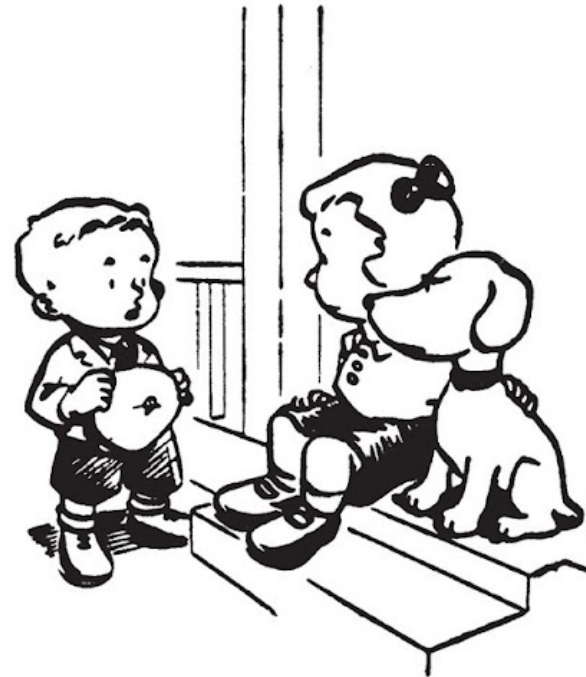
August 24, 1947

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

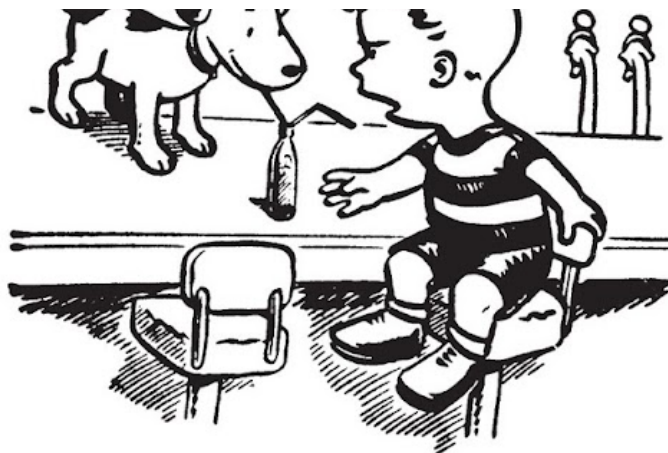


"I wonder if we could collect
any terminal leave pay?"



Oh, pardon me, I thought you
were alone."





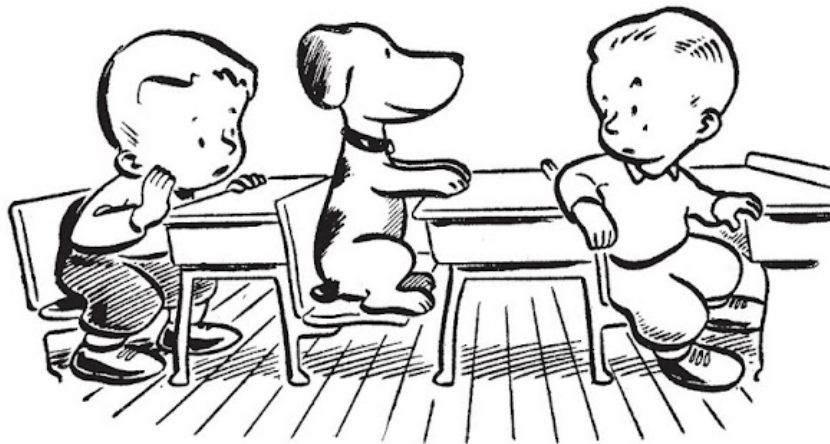
"For someone who doesn't like strawberry, you're drinking awfully fast!"



"I'd like to write short stories, and sell 'em to magazines, but I don't know how to write."

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"I can hardly wait 'til she calls the roll."



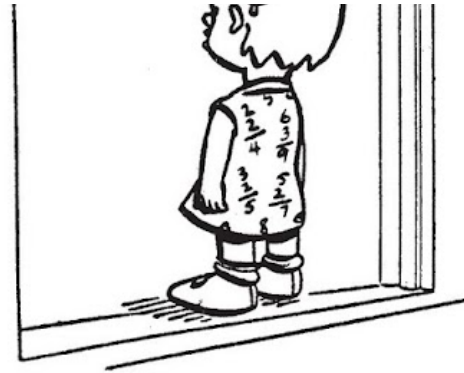
"I don't feel in the mood to say anything funny!"





"I'm positive this attitude
you're taking is going to get
you off to a bad start."

September 7, 1947



"Today we learned addition!"

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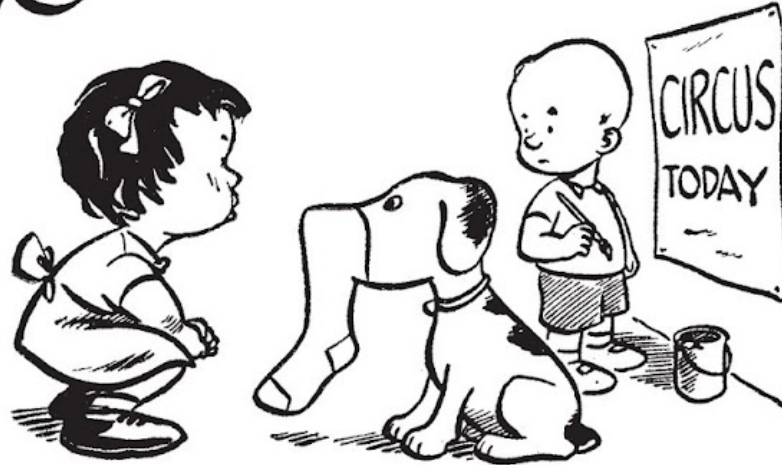
September 14, 1947

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

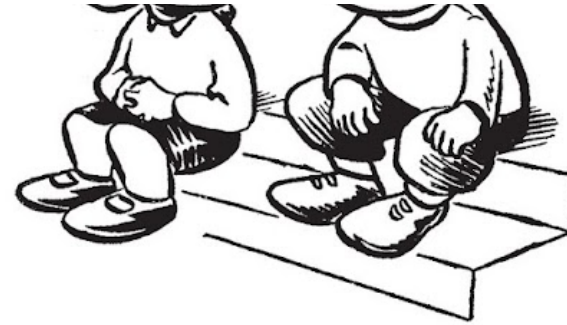


"Hello, operator? . . . Will you tell me a story?"



"What kind of sound does an elephant make?"



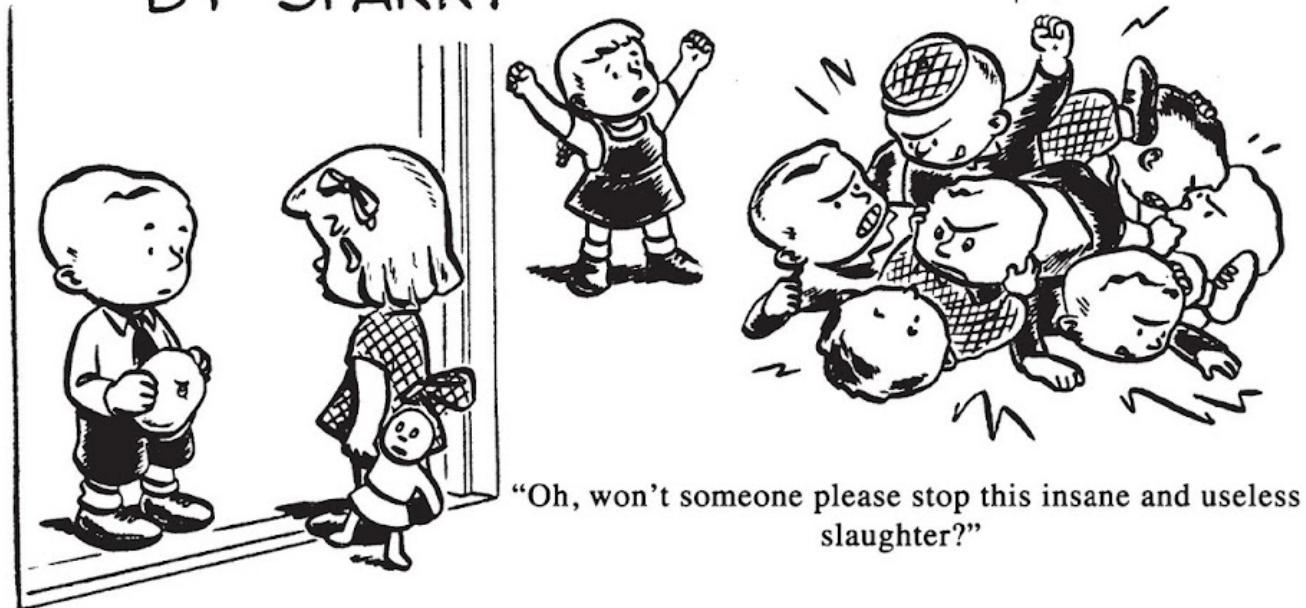


“But you can’t trade me away for a tricycle! I’m your sister . . . don’t you understand? Your own flesh and blood!”

“Yes, sir, I certainly wish I were 5 again, and I knew what I know now.”

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"Oh, won't someone please stop this insane and useless slaughter?"

"It's not that I don't like you
... I just can't stand the sight
of you."



September 21, 1947



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September 28, 1947

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

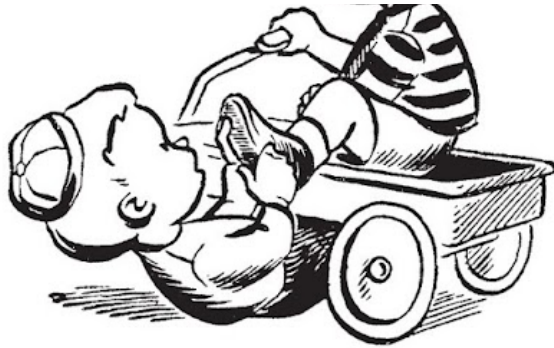


"Y'know, the girls of our generation fascinate me!"



"But he's a boy, and boys are bigger than girls. They're stronger, an' got more muscles an' . . ."





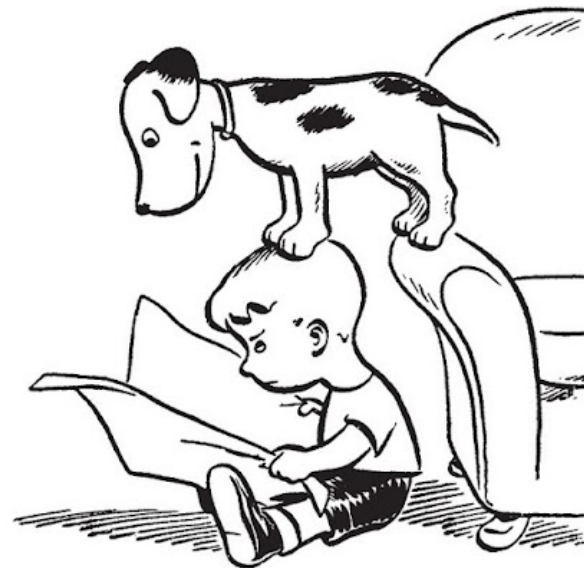
"I suggest you change to rubber soles. You'll get more mileage."



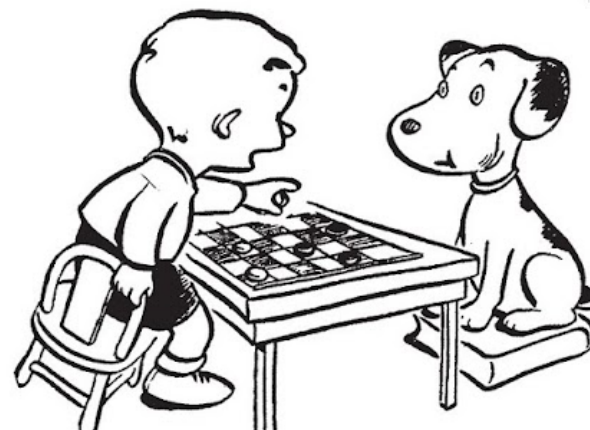
"Frankly, I think there's nothing that looks worse than a striped tie on a spotted dog."

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"Aren't you glad to see me?"

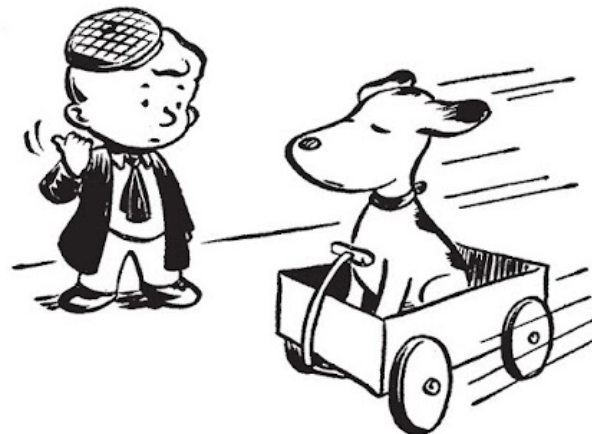




"I think I prefer Agnes' mud-pies . . .
Where she lives the earth is richer!"

October 5, 1947

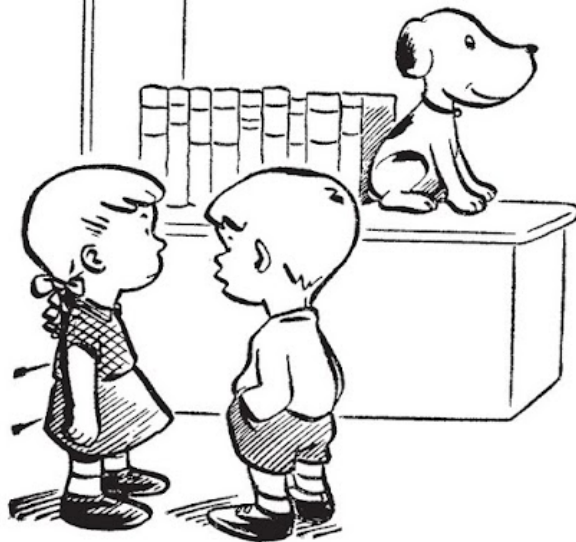
"Ha! I knew you'd think the black
ones were licorice!"



October 12, 1947

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

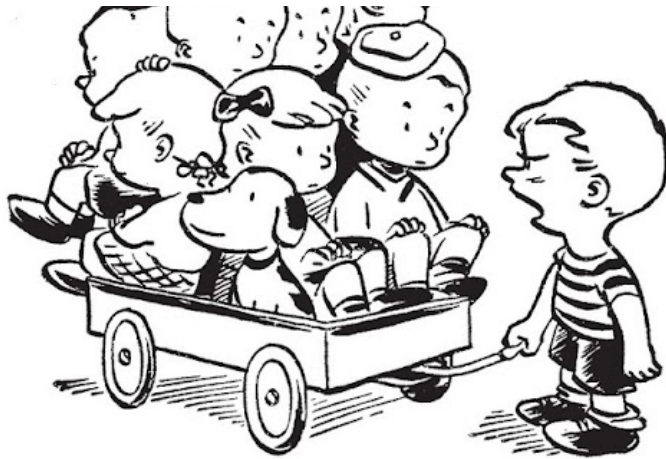


"He seems to like books so I thought I'd give him a suitable job."



"I'm sorry I can't read . . . that certainly looks interesting!"





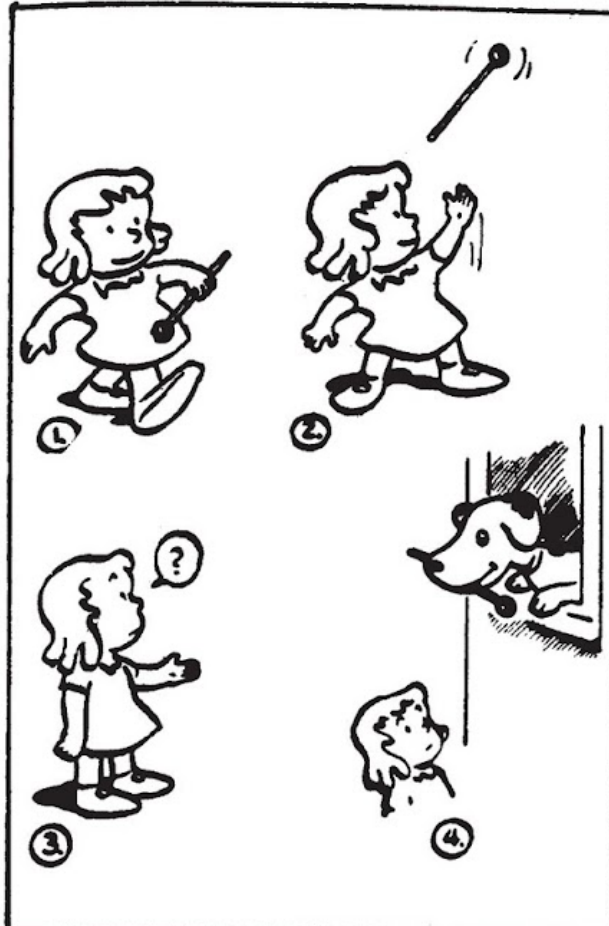
"All right, who's draggin' his feet?"



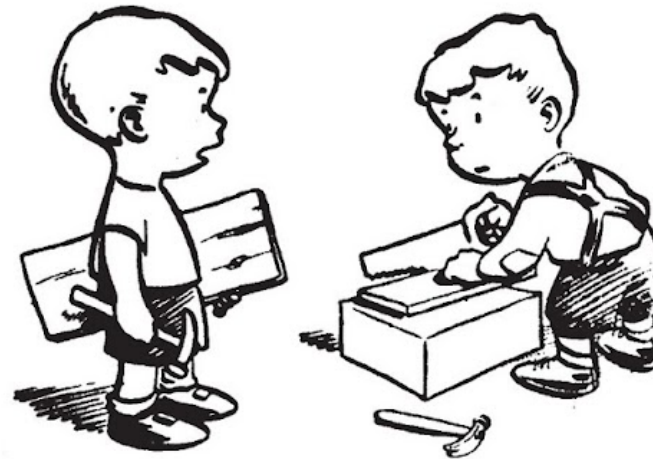
"Y' know, I think I like ice cream even better than I do girls!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

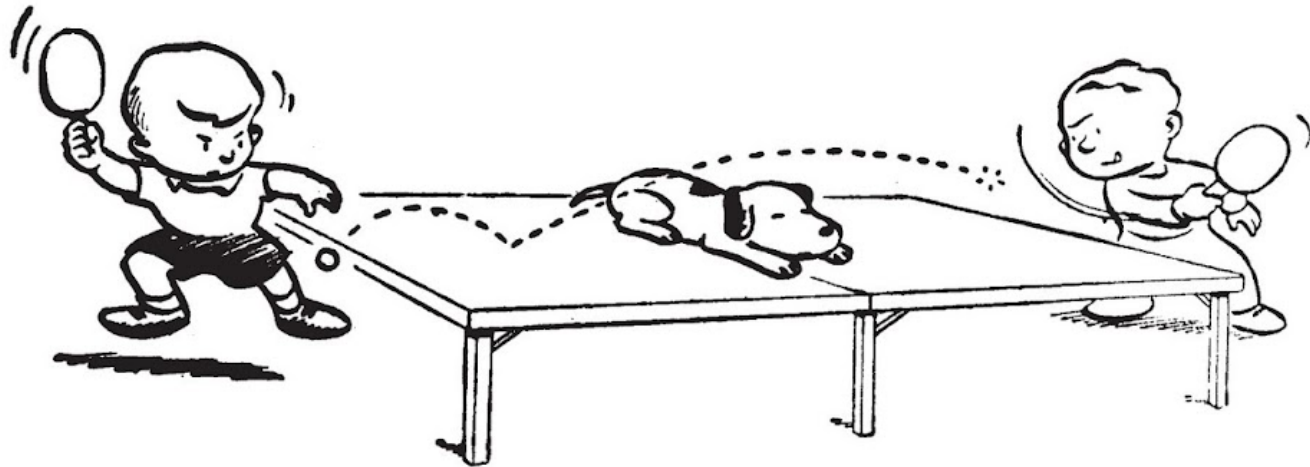


"Oh, for the good old days of pigtails and inkwells."



"I'd like to build myself a workbench, but I haven't got a workbench to build it on."

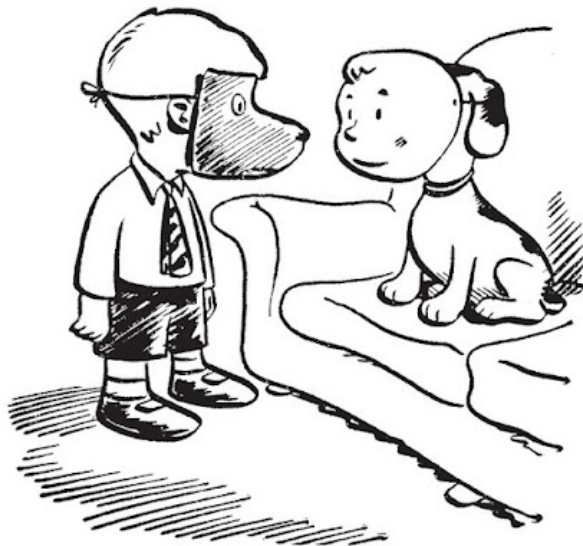
October 19, 1947



October 26, 1947

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

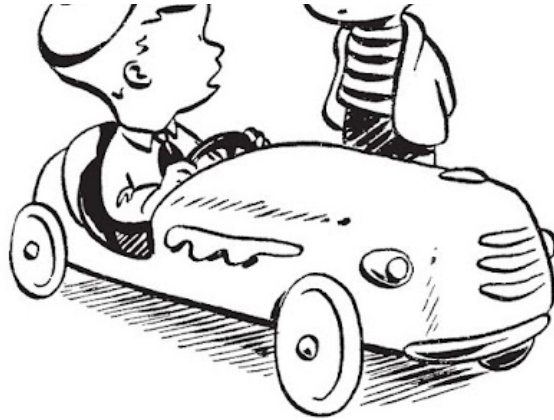


"Boo!"



"This is sort of an intimate gift. I had to blow on it three times!"





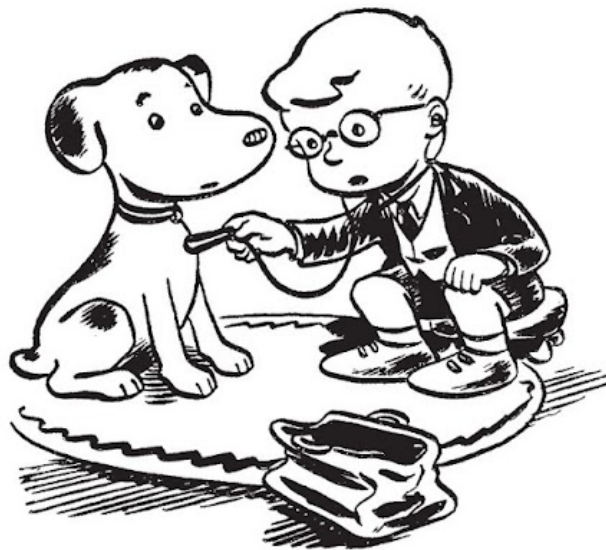
"Frankly, I thought I'd never get it. I've been on a waiting list since January!"



"You guys better hurry home. . . . It's Grandma's bedtime, and she says she's not going to sleep on the bare mattress!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

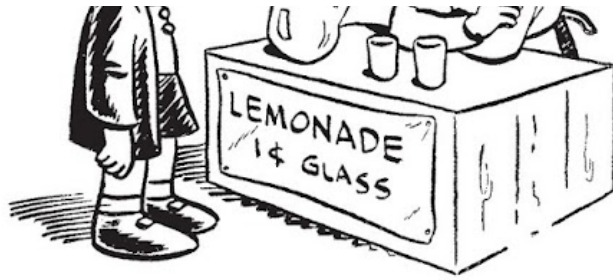


"SAY, 'WOOF!'"

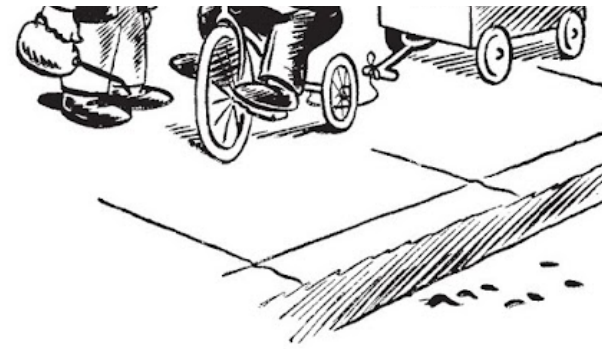


"..AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK
I'VE NEVER RUN A BARBER
SHOP BEFORE ?! "





"OF COURSE I LOSE MONEY ON EACH GLASS, BUT I FIGURE I'LL MAKE MY PROFIT BY SELLING SO MANY!"



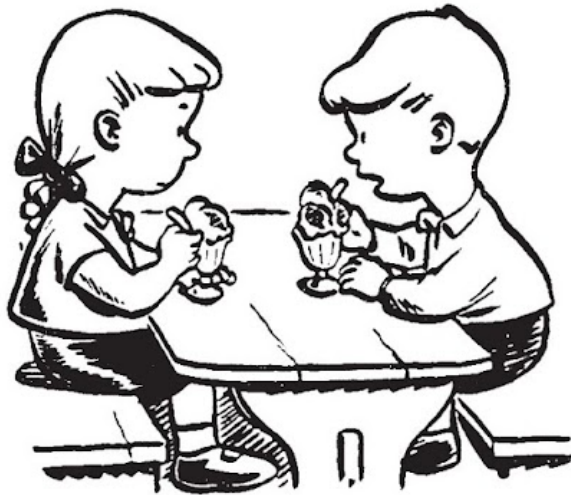
"HOW ABOUT LETTING ME BE THE ENGINEER FOR AWHILE?.. I'M TIRED OF RIDING IN THE CATTLE CAR!"

November 2, 1947

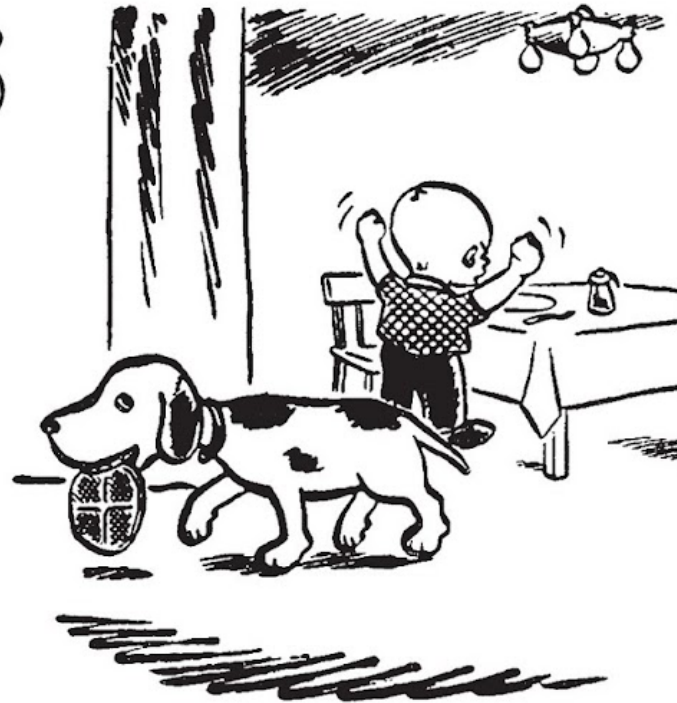
November 9, 1947

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"I HOPE THIS MAKES ME DREAM
TONIGHT... I GET BORED WITH JUST
PLAIN SLEEPING!"

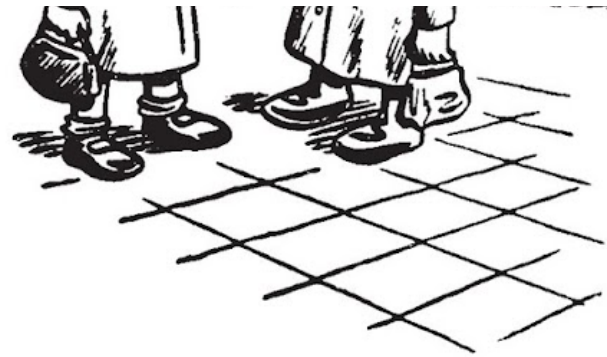


"WHO STOLE MY WAFFLE ?!"





"..AND THE NEXT THING I
KNEW, SHE HIT ME OVER THE
HEAD WITH HER MAD-MONEY!"



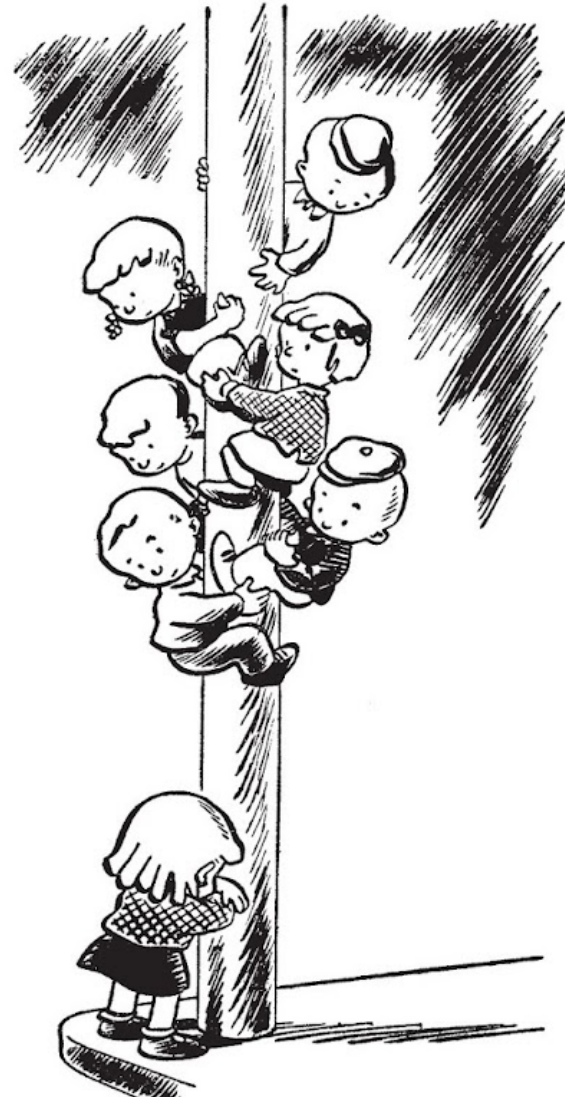
"BUT WE CAN'T SIT AT THE SAME
TABLE WITH HER... WE WON'T
HAVE ANYONE TO TALK ABOUT!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"IT'S A PRETTY GOOD RAINCOAT
EVEN THOUGH MA DID MAKE IT
OUT OF AN OLD INNER-TUBE!"



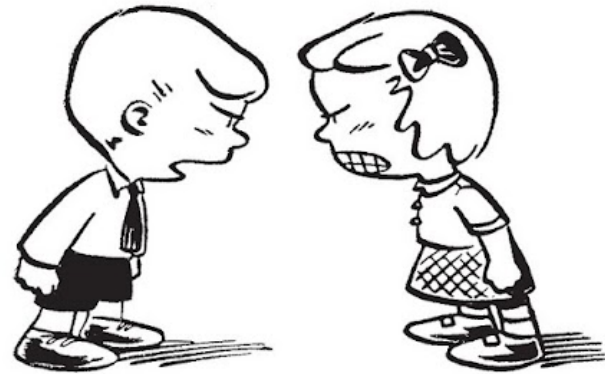
"NINETY-EIGHT,...NINETY-NINE,...ONE HUNDRED...
HERE I COME, READY OR NOT!"



November 16, 1947



"ALL RIGHT, I TAKE IT
BACK... YOUR GIRL FRIEND
HASN'T GOT LONG EARS!"



"YOU... YOU.. YOU GIRL, YOU!! "

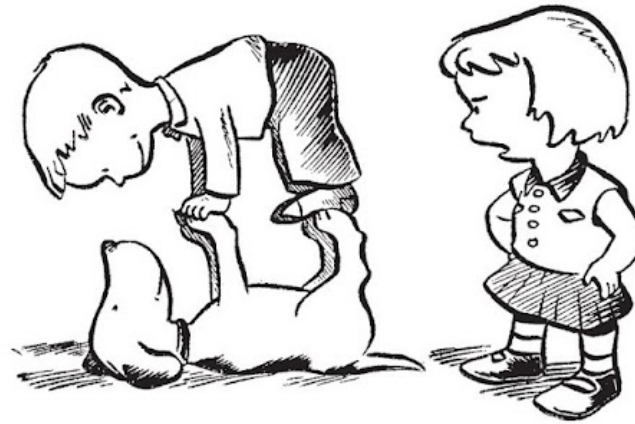
November 23, 1947

Li'l Folks

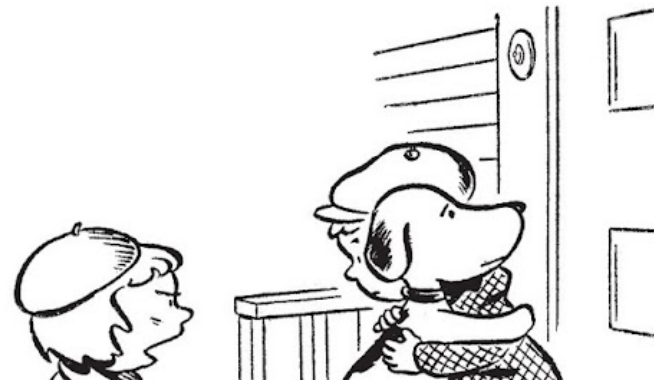
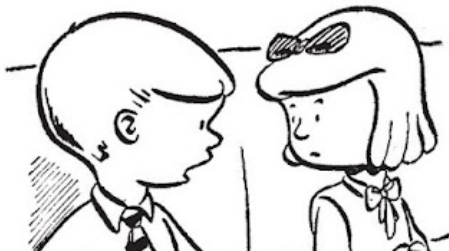
BY SPARKY

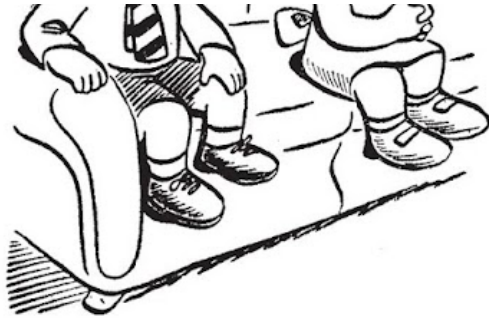


" I CAN TYPE TWO HUNDRED
LETTERS A MINUTE, BUT I CAN'T
MAKE 'EM INTO WORDS! "

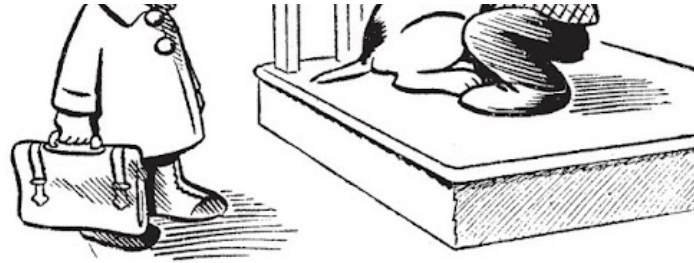


"..AND JUST WHAT DO YOU
INTEND TO DO IF RINGLING
BROTHERS TURNS YOU DOWN ?! "





"I'M PROBABLY THE ONLY FELLOW
YOU'LL EVER KNOW WHO CAN
WHISTLE THE ENTIRE SCORE
OF 'DIE FLEDERMAUS'!"



"I WISH YOU TWO WOULD STOP THESE
SAD FAREWELLS....AFTER ALL, SCHOOL
LASTS ONLY A FEW HOURS!"

Page 193

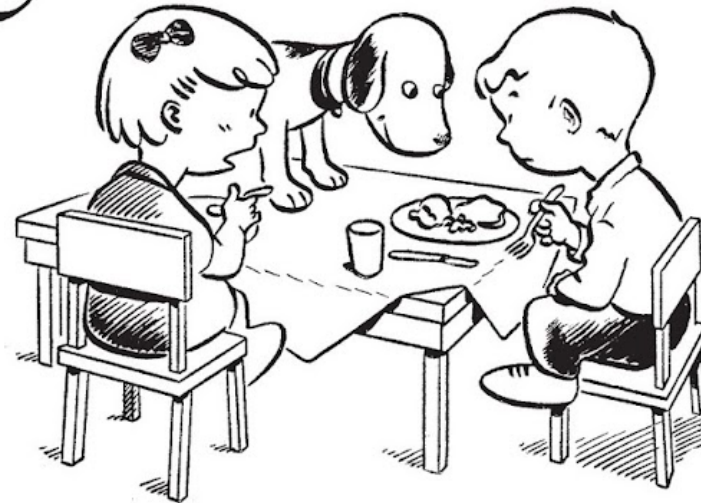
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Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

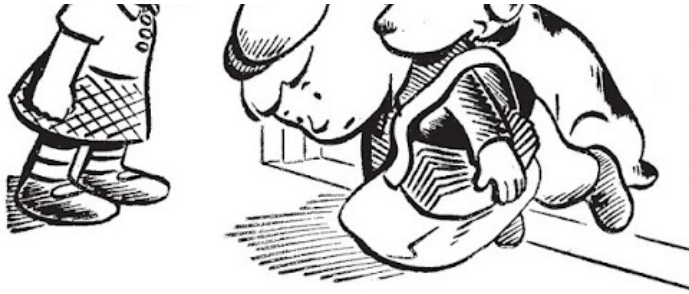


"I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU STOP TRYING TO DRESS IN THE DARK!"



"I THINK HE'S BEING VERY IMPOLITE SO JUST IGNORE HIM!"





" HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO
TELL YOU ?! JUST THE PAPER....
NOT THE WHOLE PAPERBOY !! "



" NO, I DISAGREE
WITH YOU... GIRLS ARE
MORE THAN JUST A
NECESSARY EVIL.. "

November 30, 1947

December 7, 1947

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



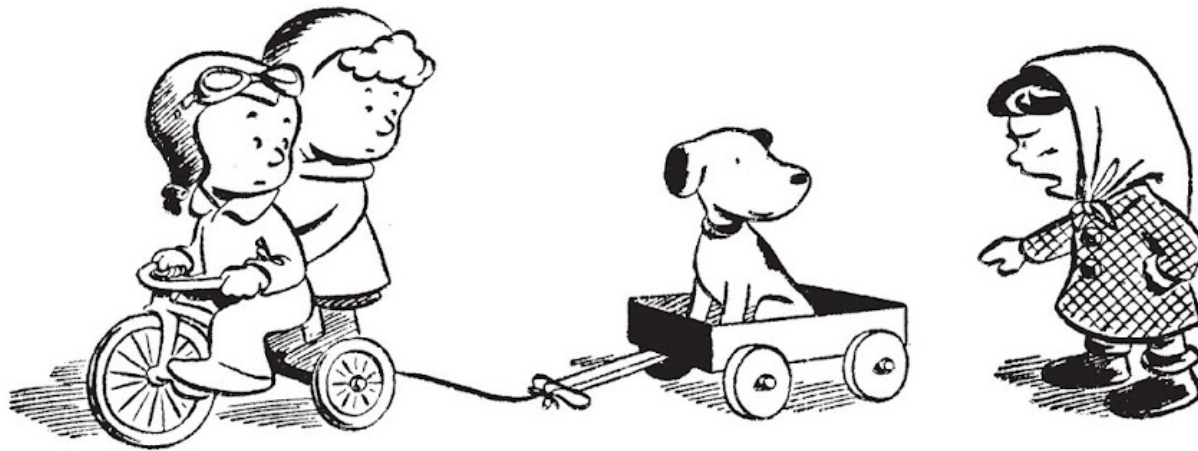
"COME ON IN ... WE'RE
PRACTISING OPENING CHRISTMAS
PRESENTS!"



"WELL, WHO WON THE GAME?"



"...BUT I TELL YOU IT'S THE
FUTURE THAT COUNTS...I DON'T
CARE ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR PAST!"



" WHAT KIND OF A BLIND DATE DO YOU CALL THIS ?! "

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"HOW SHARPER THAN A SERPENT'S TOOTH IT IS TO HAVE A THANKLESS CHILD'... I THINK THAT MEANS YOU!"

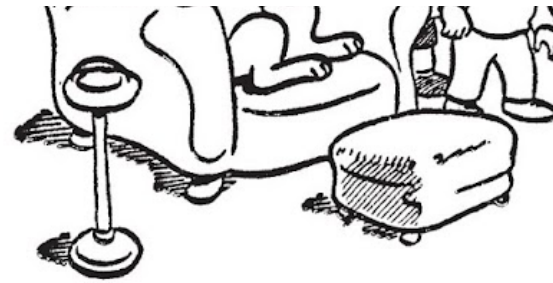


"MOM SAYS YOU CAN COME IN, BUT YOUR FRIEND WILL HAVE TO STAY OUTSIDE."





"IF YOU WANTED TO MEET HER
I COULD INTRODUCE YOU, IF I
KNEW WHO SHE WAS !"



"IT'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIS
BEING THIS MONTH'S DOG
OF DISTINCTION!"

December 14, 1947

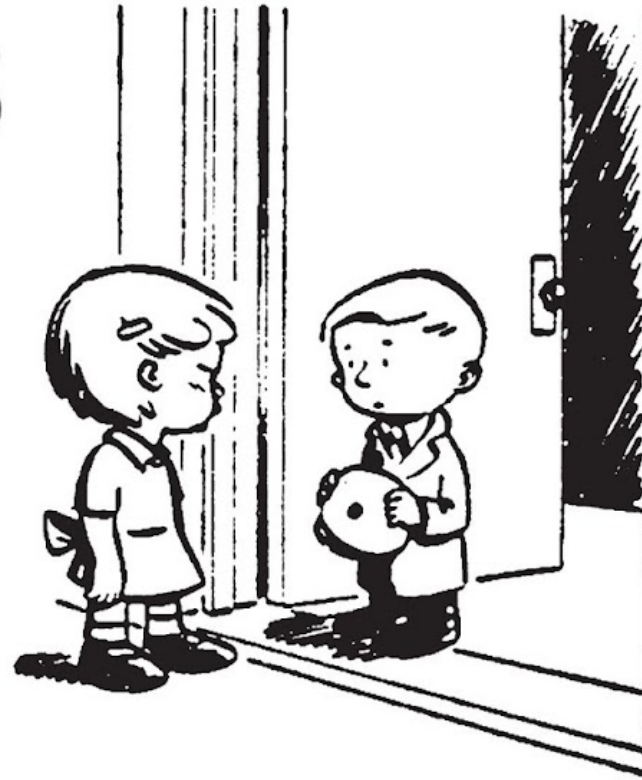
December 21, 1947

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"I DON'T THINK HE HAS MUCH
CONFIDENCE IN ME !"



"OH, RATS! I THOUGHT IT
WAS SOMEBODY IMPORTANT !"

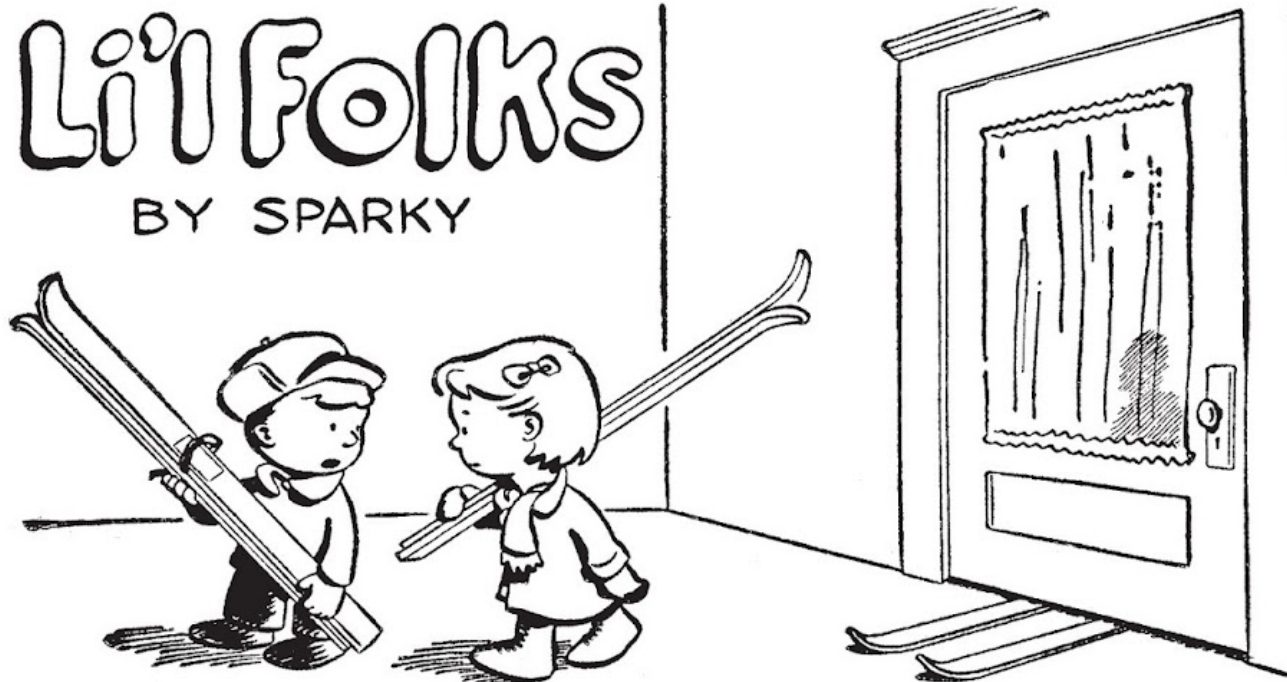




"QUICK! INTRODUCE ME
BEFORE HIS GLASSES
UNFOG! "

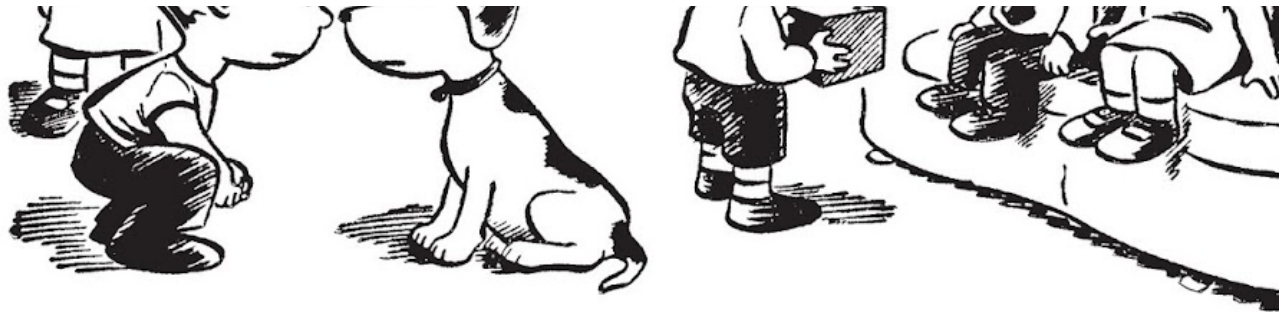


" YOU WOULDN'T ACT SO
SMUG IF I COULD THROW
FARTHER !"



" WHAT HAPPENED TO EDDIE?...DIDN'T HE COME IN ? "





" THIS IS CERTAINLY GOING
TO RUIN THE OLD 'MAN OVER
BEAST' THEORY ! "

" HOW COME I SEE
THREE FACES BUT ONLY
FOUR LEGS ? "

December 28, 1947

January 4, 1948

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

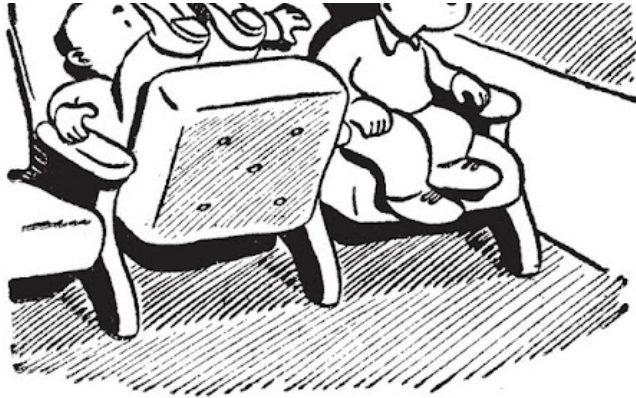


"OH, STOP COMPLAINING!
IF THERE'S NO TOWEL,
THERE'S NO TOWEL."



"THE WHISTLER AND HIS DOG!.....
OVER AND OVER, DAY AFTER DAY....
IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY!"





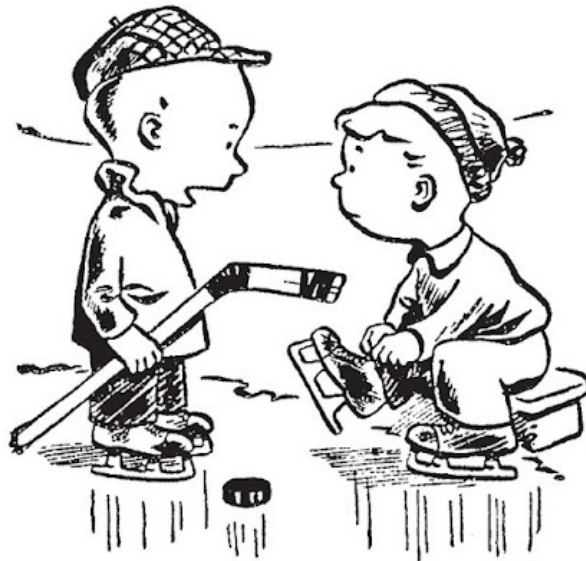
" BOY, I'VE NEVER SEEN
ANYONE LEAVE IN SUCH
A HURRY ! "



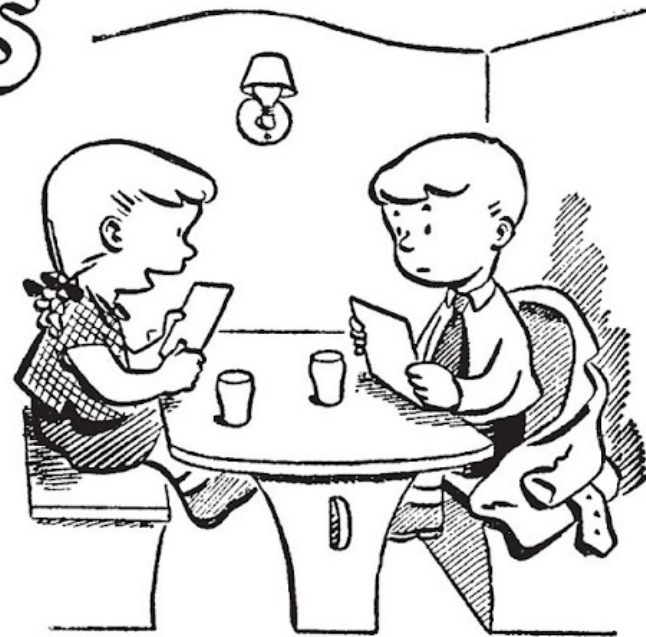
" IF YOU ASK ME, I SAY
STOP WORRYING ABOUT THE
YOUNGER GENERATION, AND
LET 'EM TAKE CARE OF
THEMSELVES !! "

Li'l Folks

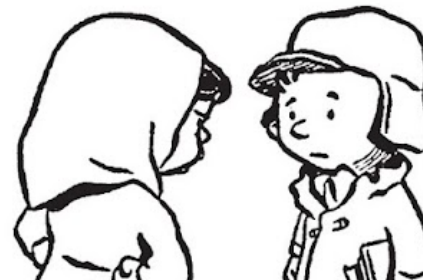
BY SPARKY



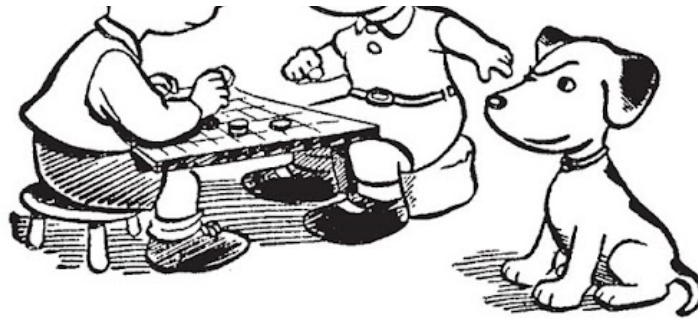
"THE GAME'S OFF....
GRANDMA BROKE HER
GOALIE STICK!"



"HERE'S YOUR BIG CHANCE
TO IMPRESS ME!"



January 11, 1948



" CAN'T YOU MAKE HIM STOP
WINKING AT ME ?! "



" YOU GO RIGHT IN
THERE, AND TELL YOUR
TEACHER SHE CAN'T TALK
THAT WAY ABOUT MY
FUTURE HUSBAND ! "

January 18, 1948

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

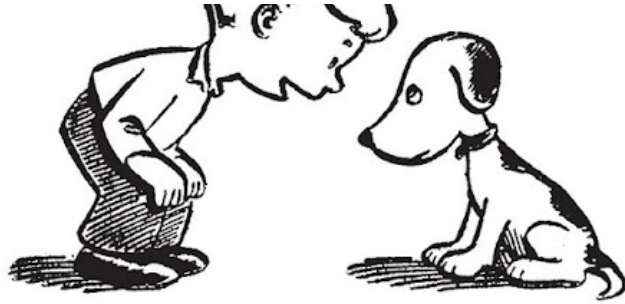


"THE WAY I SEE IT
IS... IF AT FIRST YOU
DON'T SUCCEED...QUIT!"

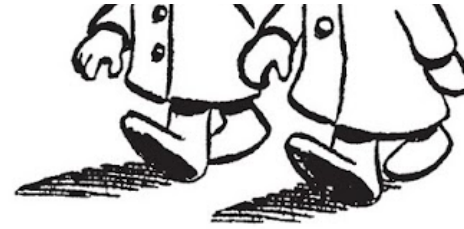


"I CAN SEE THAT YOU'RE
GOING TO HAVE TO LEARN TO
USE A BOOK-MARK!"





" A PENNY FOR
YOUR THOUGHTS... "



" I'M AFRAID THAT
LEAP-YEAR WILL BE
OVER BY THE TIME
I GROW UP. "

Li'l Folks

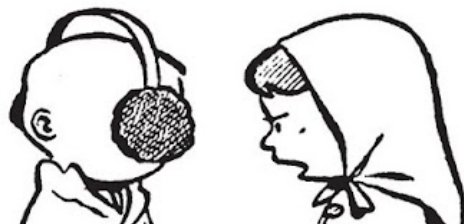
BY SPARKY

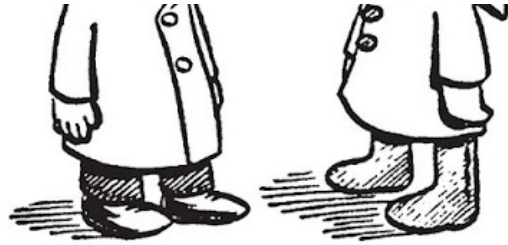


"OH, OH,... IT LOOKS BAD
FOR OUR SIDE... GRANDMA
JUST GOT A FIVE-MINUTE
PENALTY ! "



" GRR...RRR...ROWF....GRR.. "





January 25, 1948

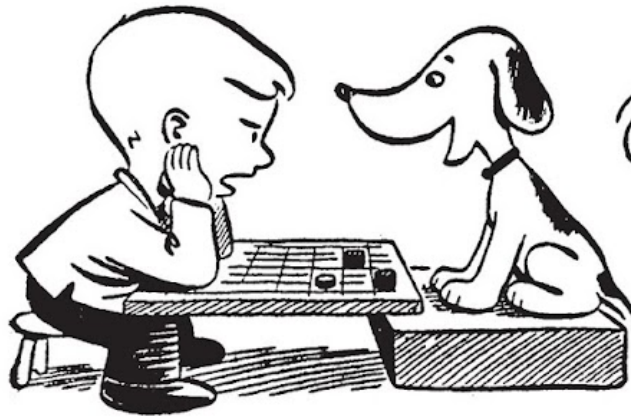
" WHAT DO YOU
MEAN.. YOUR EARS
ARE STILL COLD ?! "

" I CERTAINLY DO DREAD
THE COMING OF MY
SECOND CHILDHOOD ! "

February 1, 1948

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

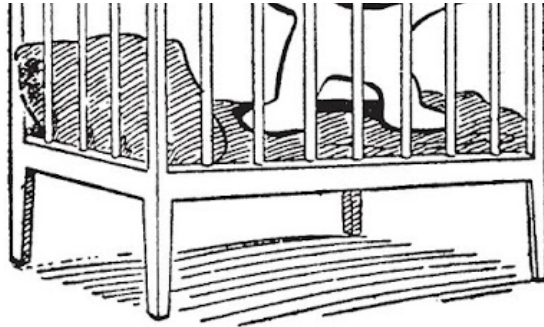


"DON'T LOOK SO HAPPY...
YOU HAVEN'T WON YET!"

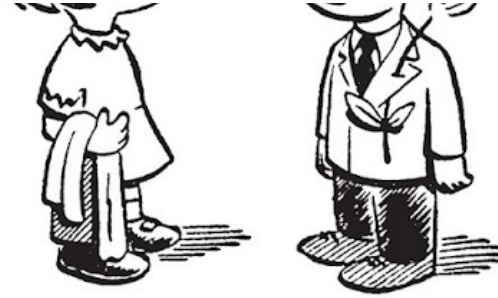


"DON'T FIGHT OVER ME,
BOYS....I'M NOT WORTH IT...
UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU
REALLY WANT TO!"





"LEMMIE OUT OF HERE!
I'M INNOCENT, I TELL
YA!....I DEMAND TO
SEE THE WARDEN!!"



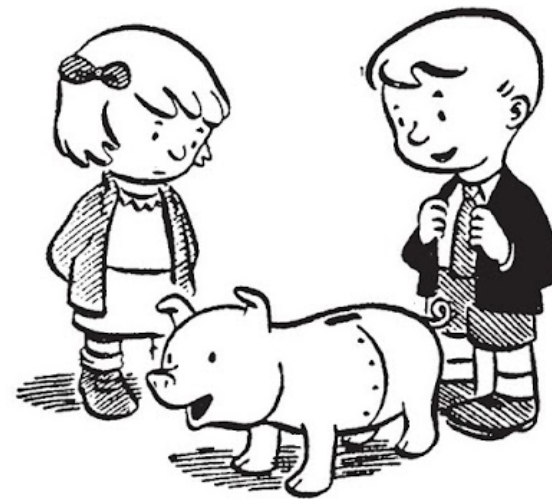
"WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IS IT THE WRONG
COLOR?"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

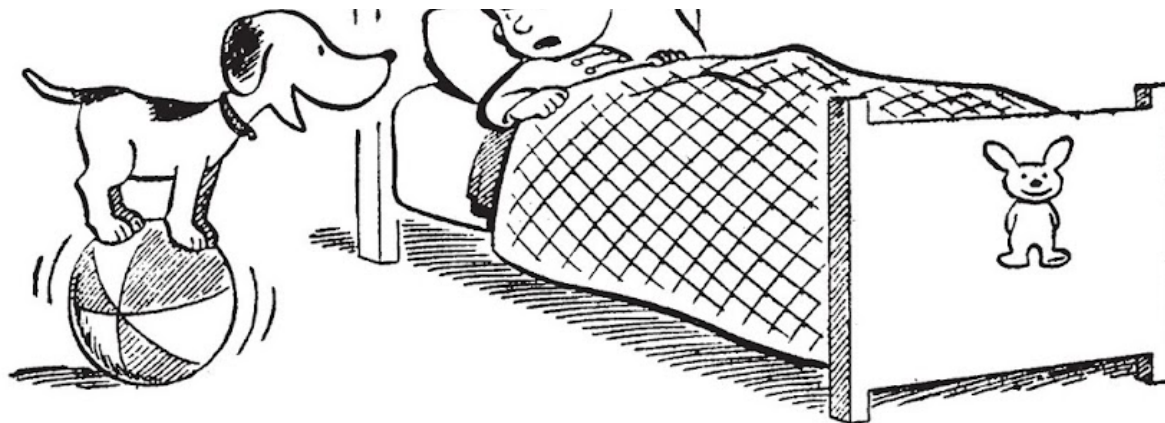


"I REALLY BELIEVE SHE'S
THE STRICTEST TEACHER
WE'VE EVER HAD!"



"IT'S MY OWN INVENTION....
A NEW PIGGY BANK
DESIGNED TO HOLD TEN
THOUSAND DOLLARS!"





February 8, 1948

"ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT,...LET'S BREAK IT UP, AND GO TO BED!"

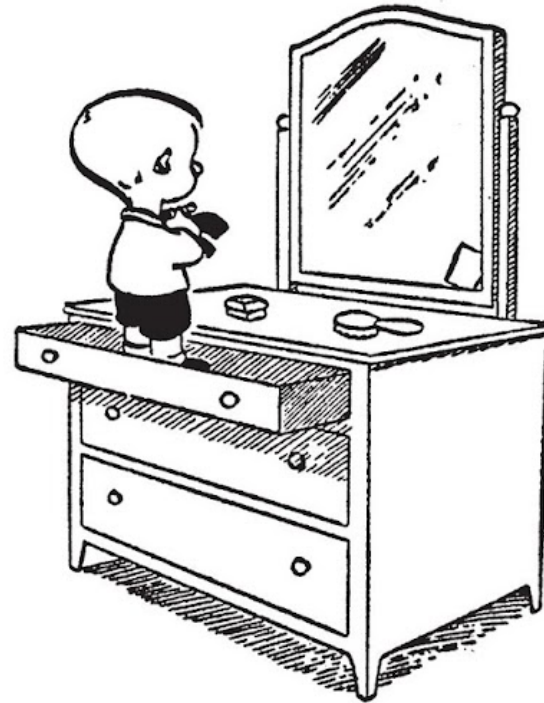
February 15, 1948

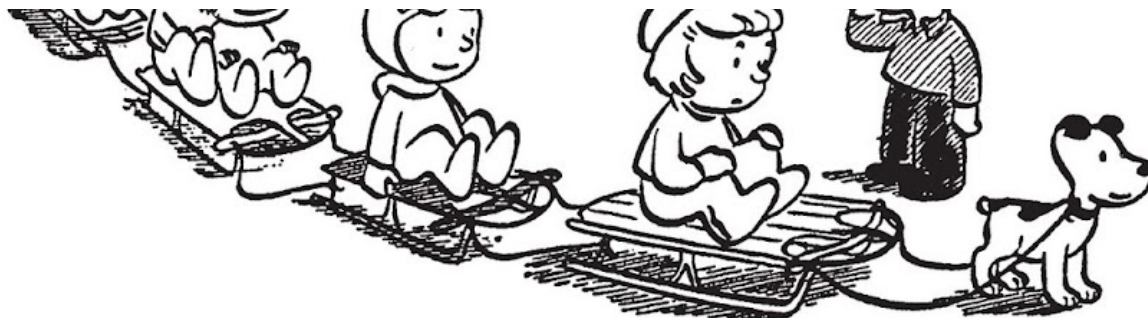
Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"THROUGH NO FAULT OF
MY OWN I WILL NOW PLAY
A CELLO SOLO ON THE
VIOLIN..."





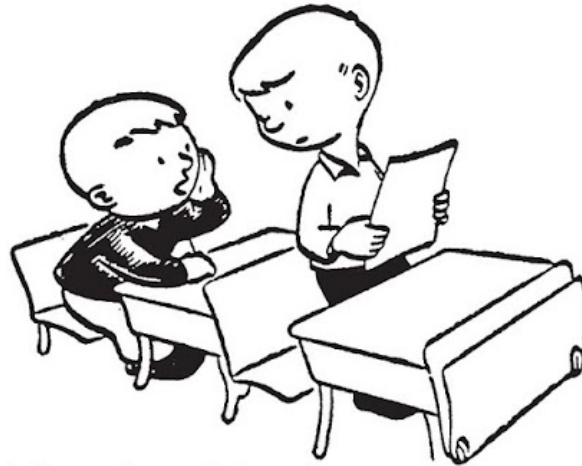
"ALL RIGHT,...IS EVERYBODY READY NOW? HANG ON TIGHT! WE DON'T WANT ANYONE HURT, YOU KNOW!"

Page 205

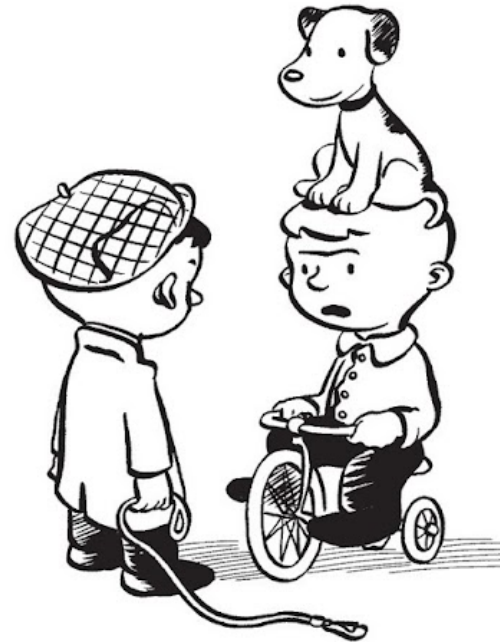
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Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

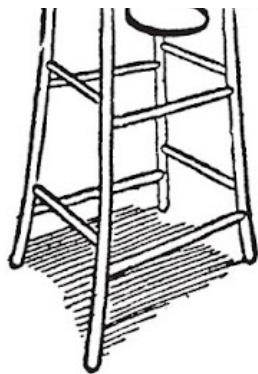


"I DIDN'T GET MY HOMEWORK
DONE....SEE IF YOU CAN
START A FILIBUSTER!"



"DOG?... WHY, NO....
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK
I'VE SEEN YOUR DOG?"





February 22, 1948

" GARÇON ! "



" DIDN'T ANY DIRECTIONS
COME WITH HIM ? "

February 29, 1948

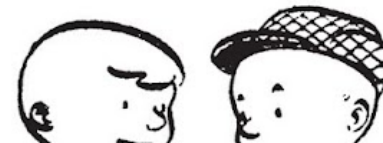
Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"FURTHERMORE, I REFUSE
TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS
UNTIL I'VE SEEN MY LAWYER!"

"WHO'S THAT OLD HAG?"





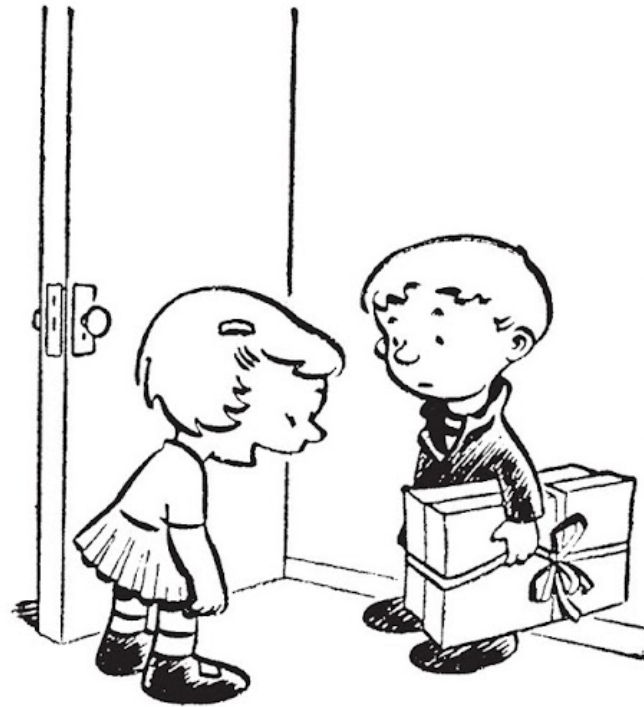
"ALL HIS LIFE HE'S WANTED A SUNPORCH!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"HMM...MISSED AGAIN !"



"MY BIRTHDAY WAS
YESTERDAY, BUT BY ALL
MEANS COME IN !"





March 7, 1948

" LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!...
I HAVE HERE A MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS!! "

March 14, 1948

Li'l Folks

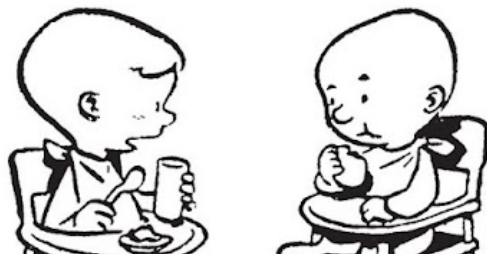
BY SPARKY

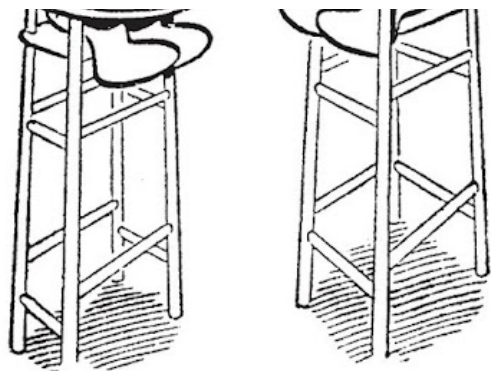


"I'LL HAVE TO TELL YOU LATER...
I CAN'T TALK NOW!"



"TIMBER !!!"





"I FIND THAT THIS HIGH ALTITUDE DOES WONDERS FOR MY APPETITE."



"I'VE HAD THE AWFUL FEELING LATELY THAT BEETHOVEN IS GOING TO KILL ME!"

Page 209

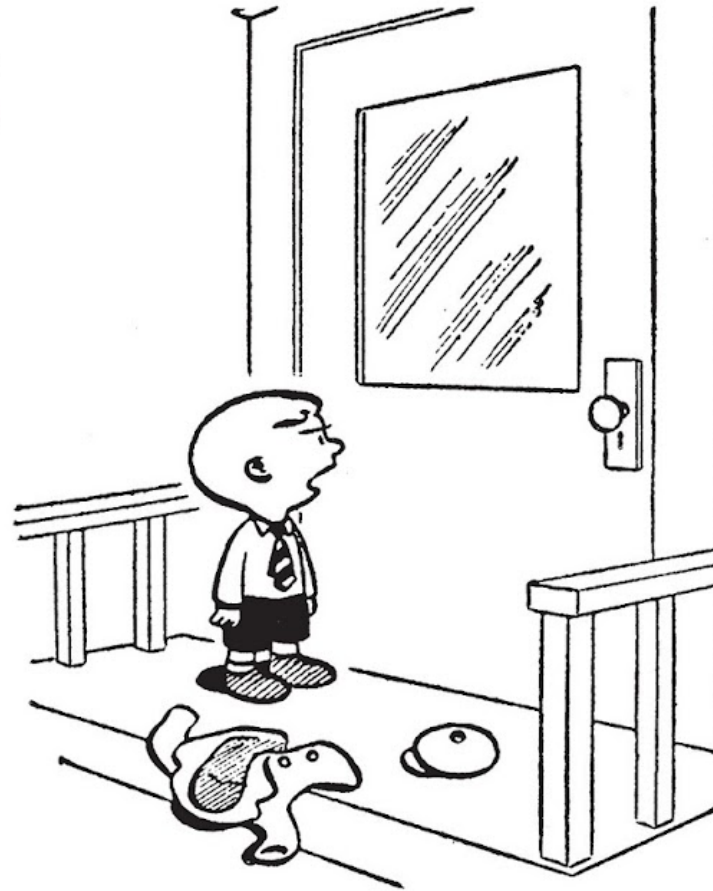
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Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

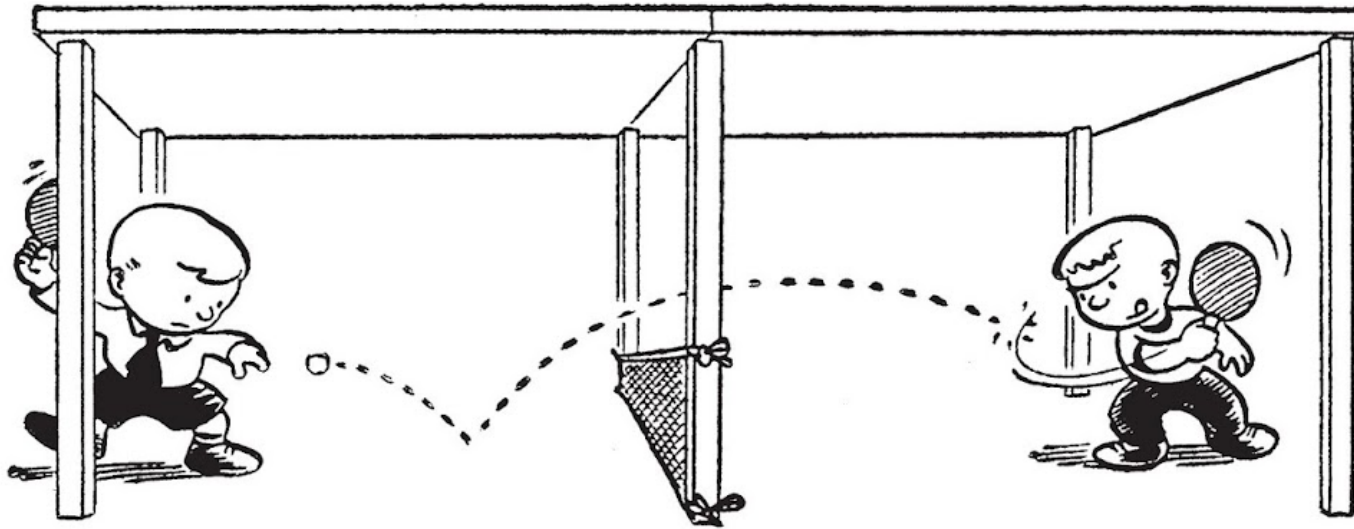


"DO YOU HAVE TO GET
MARRIED TO BE A
MOTHER-IN-LAW?"



"NOW LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE...
YOU'VE HURT MY FEELINGS!"

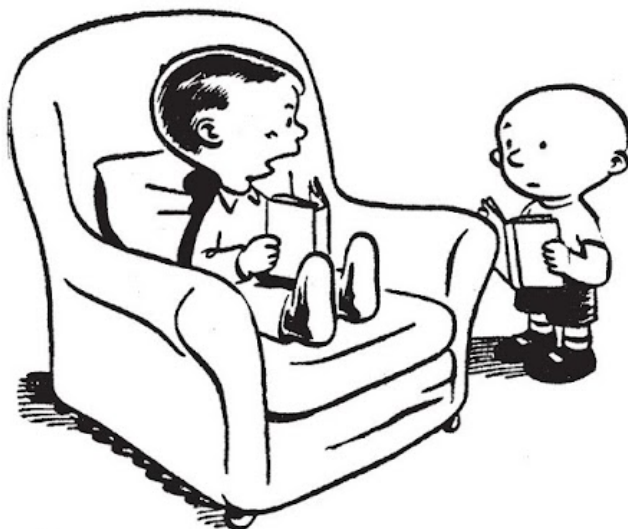
March 21, 1948



March 28, 1948

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

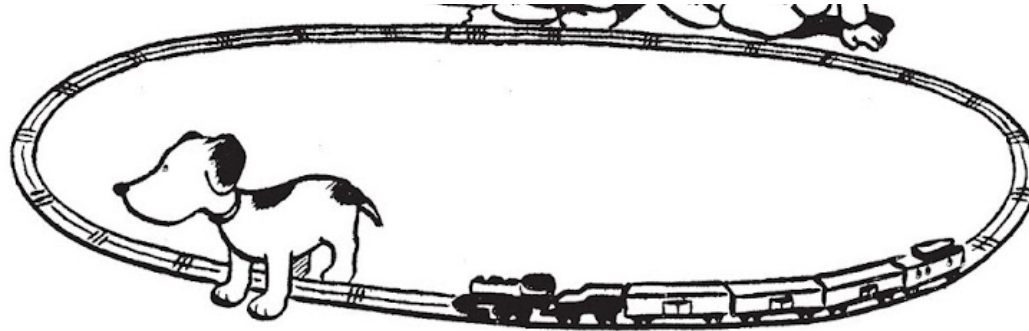


"ASK ME AGAIN SIX WEEKS FROM NOW... I'LL BE OLDER AND WISER THEN "



"HAPPY EASTER, AND DON'T EAT IT TOO FAST IT COST ME FIFTY CENTS!"





"KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE TUNNEL. I THINK
IT'S GOING TO MOVE!"

Page 211

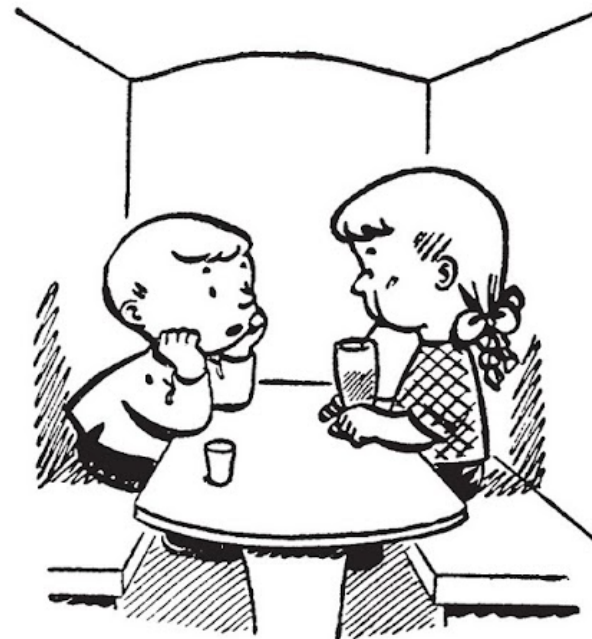
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Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"BAD NEWS....GRANDMA'S
MAD, AND WON'T LET
US BORROW HER
CATCHER'S MASK!"



"ARE YOU STILL THE SAME
PATRICIA SMITH THAT I USED
TO KNOW SO WELL?"





"I ALWAYS ENJOY READING
'LI'L FOLKS'... IT GIVES ME A
FEELING OF SUPERIORITY!"



"BOY, WASN'T IT LUCKY
I WAS CARRYING
THE ICE CREAM?"

April 4, 1948

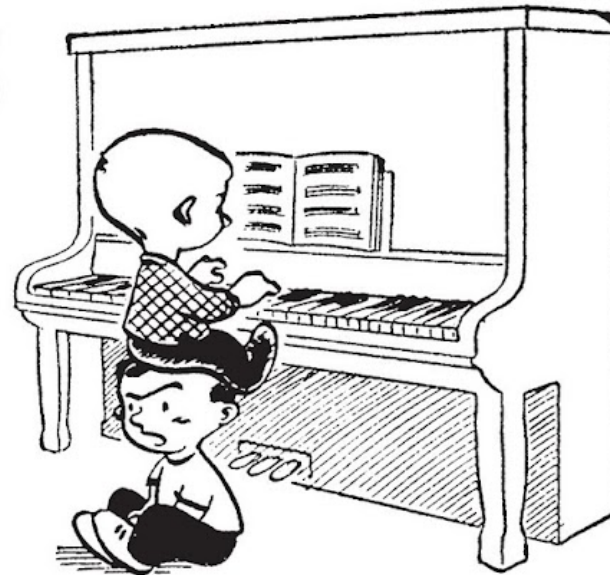
April 11, 1948

Li'l Folks

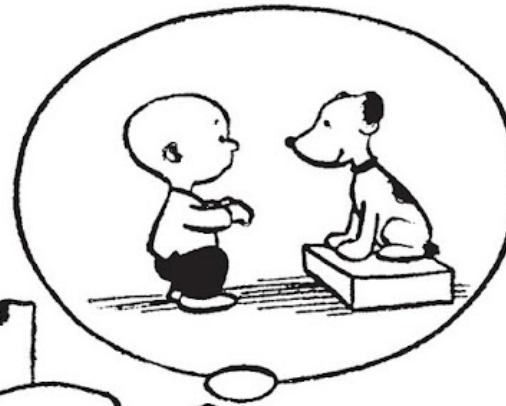
BY SPARKY

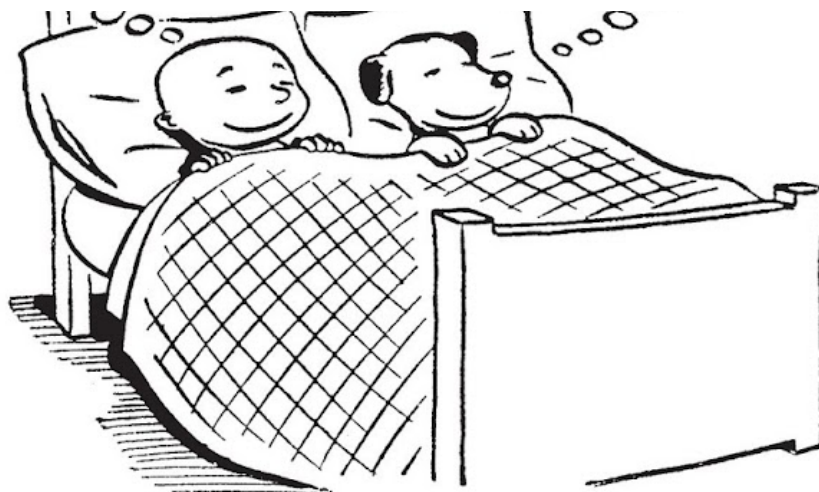


"YOU KNOW THE OLD SAYING, 'A LITTLE DIRT NEVER HURT ANYBODY!'"



"YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW GLAD I'LL BE WHEN YOU GET THAT NEW PIANO STOOL!"





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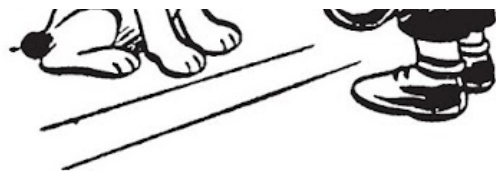
Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"BOY, THIS IS A
SWELL BEANSHOOTER.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT
CALIBER IT IS?"





"YOU LOOK LIKE AN
INTELLIGENT FELLOW...
MAYBE YOU CAN GIVE
ME THE ADVICE I'M
SEEKING..."



"DUCKS, BOATS, SWANS....
GREAT SCOTT! CAN'T A MAN
EVER HAVE ANY PRIVACY?!"

April 18, 1948

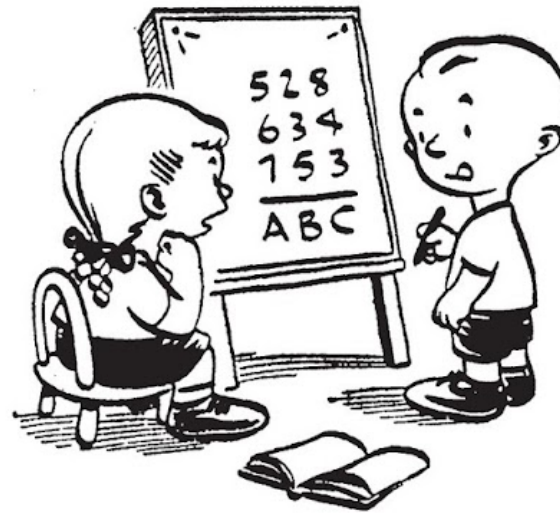
April 25, 1948

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

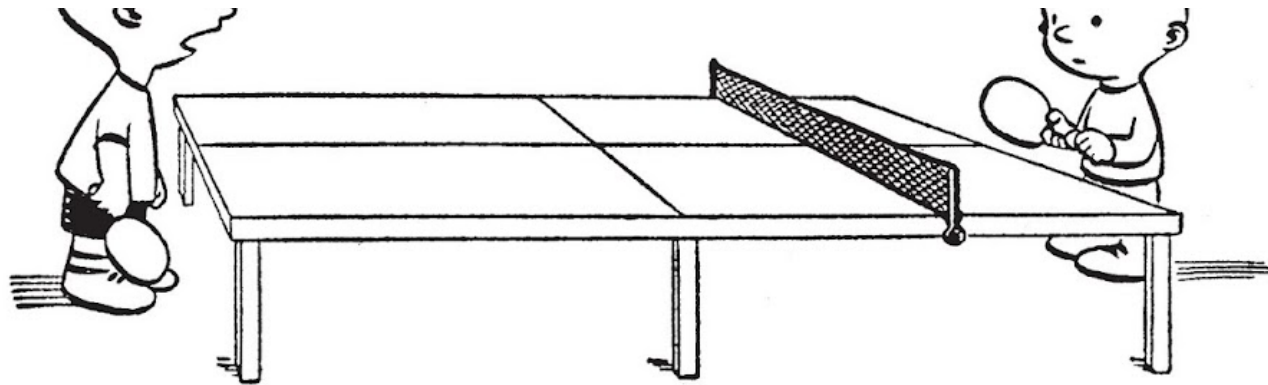


"HAVEN'T WE MET
SOMEWHERE BEFORE? PARIS,
VIENNA,...OR WAS IT THE
CORNER DRUGSTORE?"



"WHAT GRADE DID
YOU SAY YOU WERE IN?"

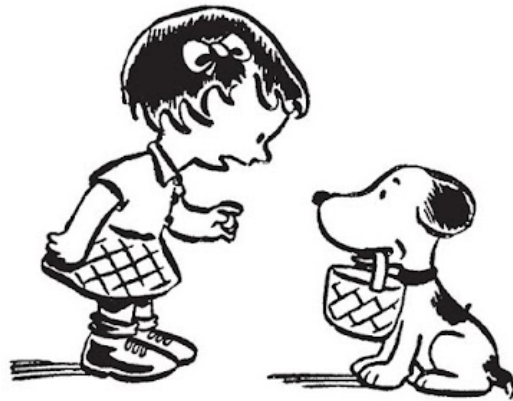




"BEFORE WE START THIS NEXT GAME, LET'S
HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE RULE BOOK!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"AND IF YOU GET LOST, JUST STOP, AND ASK A POLICE DOG."

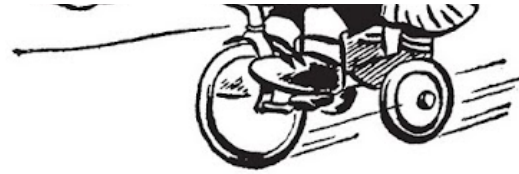


"THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CHIP IN, AND BUY SOME LUMBER!"





"ALL RIGHT THEN, PUT IT THIS WAY... DOES PEPPERMINT HAVE SLIVERS?"



"WHAT DO I CARE IF SHE FALLS OFF? WE'RE NOT GOING STEADY!"

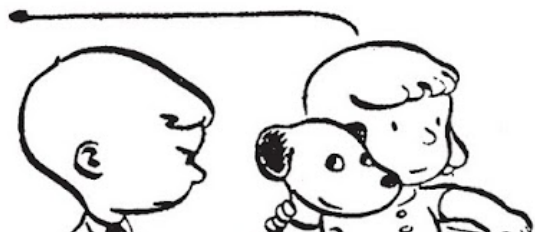
May 2, 1948

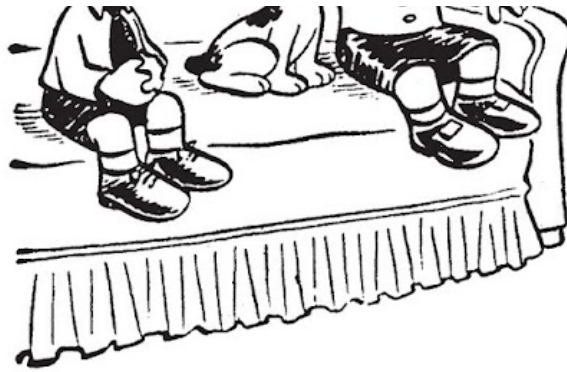
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May 9, 1948

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY





... AND A "HAPPY MOTHER'S
DAY" to ALL MOTHERS of
"LIL FOLKS!"

Li'l Folks

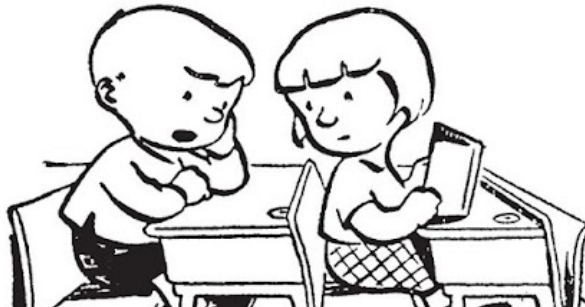
BY SPARKY



"HI!"



"RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY... COME AGAIN SOME OTHER DAY!"





"IT GOES WITHOUT
SAYING THAT MY
MERE PRESENCE HERE
INDICATES I MUST BE
OUT OF MY MIND!"



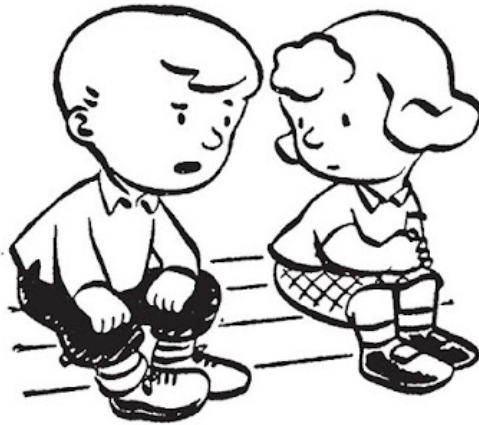
"I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRER HIM...
HE'S SO CAREFREE.."

May 16, 1948

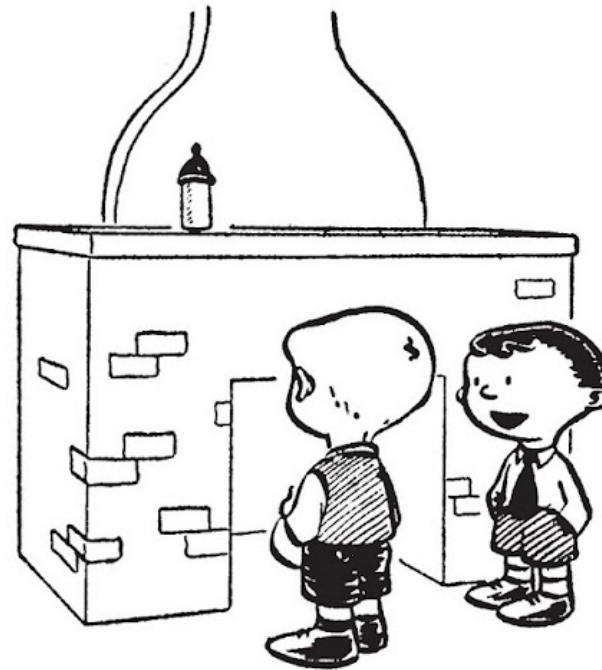
May 23, 1948

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"THEN AGAIN, SOMETIMES
I THINK GROWNUPS AREN'T
EVEN HUMAN!"



"I JUST KEEP IT AS
A REMINDER... I REALLY
HAVEN'T HAD A DRINK
IN YEARS!"





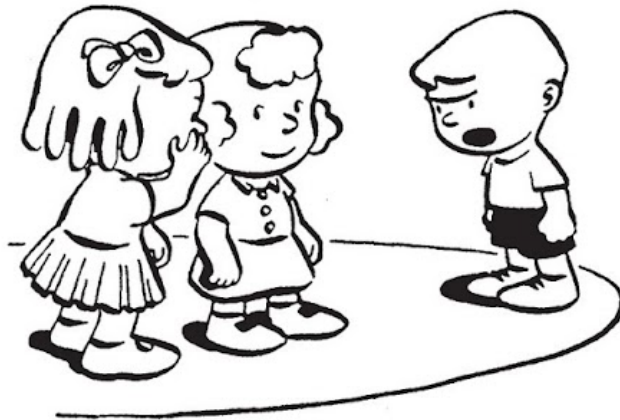
"STOP SMILING! THIS
IS A VERY SAD
STORY!"



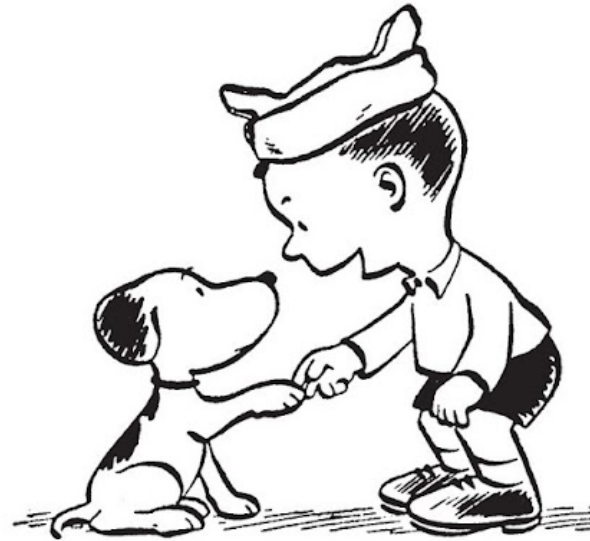
"DON'T HIT ME! JUST
SAY SOMETHING SARCASTIC!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"MEOW,.. MEOW,.. MEOW !"



"BROWN'S THE NAME...
CHARLIE BROWN... ALWAYS
GLAD TO GREET A FELLOW
CONSTITUENT !"





"WHOOPS!...
PARDON ME!"



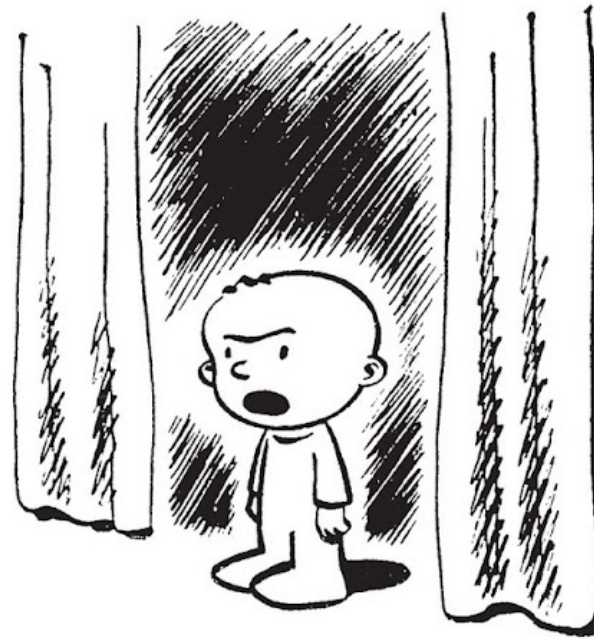
"IT ALL STARTED WITH AN
ARGUMENT OVER WHO HAD
THE WORST TEMPER"

May 30, 1948

June 6, 1948

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"THERE ARE EIGHT
COLLIES FIGHTING IN MY
BED..... I WISH YOU'D
HAVE THEM REMOVED!"





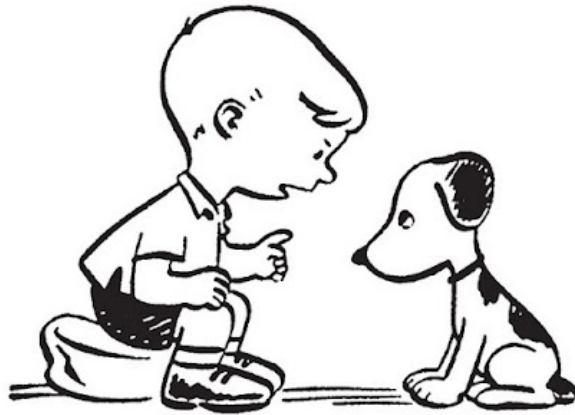
" SHH... DON'T GIVE
ME AWAY....NEITHER ONE
KNOWS THAT THE OTHER
IS HERE !"



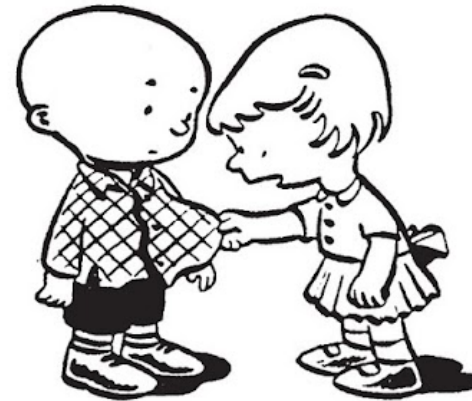
" WHO PUT PERFUME
ON MY CATCHER'S
MITT ?!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"YOU DON'T SEEM TO
REALIZE THAT AS MAN'S BEST
FRIEND YOU HAVE CERTAIN
OBLIGATIONS TO FULFILL."



"THAT'S A VERY NICE
LOOKING SHIRT ALTHOUGH
IT WOULD PROBABLY LOOK
EVEN BETTER ON ME!"



"WATER !...."

June 13, 1948

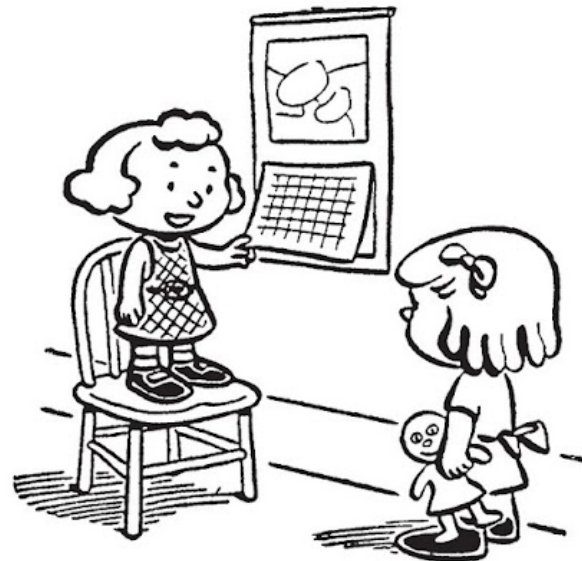
June 20, 1948

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE....GROW!"

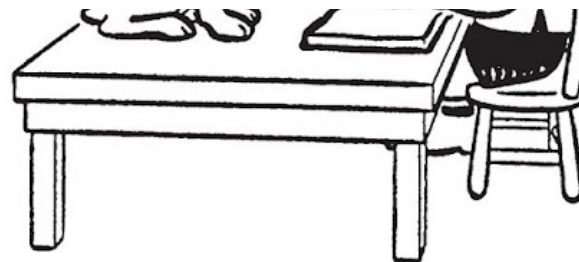


"MY NAME IS JUNE, I WAS BORN IN JUNE AND MY BIRTHDAY'S IN JUNE.... ISN'T THAT REMARKABLE?"





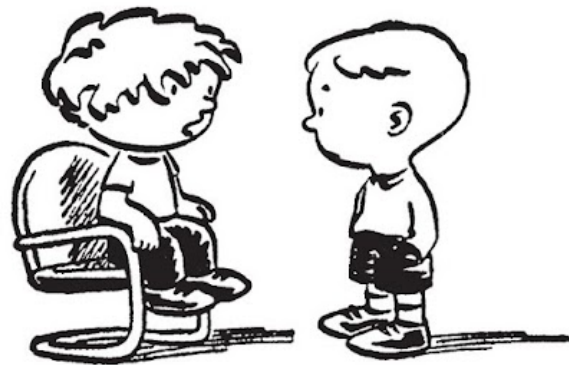
"WE'VE STILL GOT A
CHANCE... GRANDMA'S
GOING IN AS A
PINCH-HITTER!"



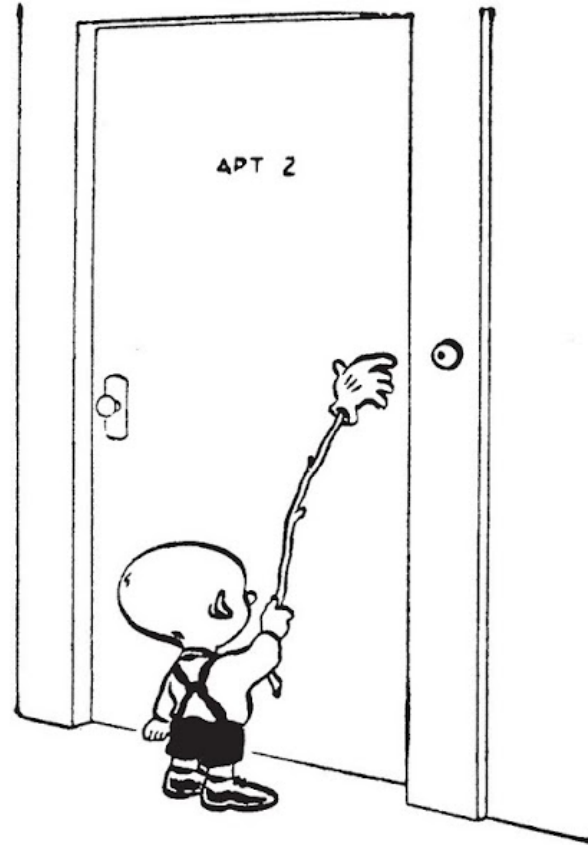
"APPARENTLY YOU
DON'T REALIZE THAT A
DIARY IS A VERY
PERSONAL THING!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"I DON'T UNDERSTAND....
AS SOON AS I CAME IN
HERE, ALL THREE BARBERS
WENT OUT TO LUNCH!"





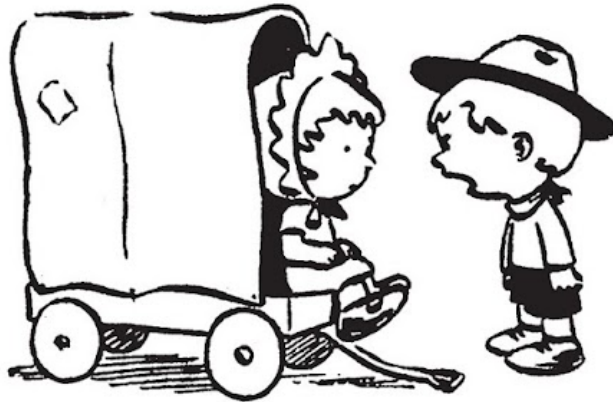
"HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT
YOU REALLY LOVE ME?
MAYBE YOU'RE JUST
FASCINATED BY MY
WORLDLY BACKGROUND"

June 27, 1948

July 4, 1948

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"I'LL BET THE PIONEER LADIES
NEVER COMPLAINED WHEN THEY
COULDN'T HAVE AN ICE CREAM
CONE ! "

WALLFLOWER !



" WHY SHOULD I SAY
SOMETHING FUNNY ? I
DON'T GET ANYTHING
OUT OF IT ! "

YOU DANCE VERY WELL..
HOW ARE YOU AT PLAYING
SECOND BASE ?



Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

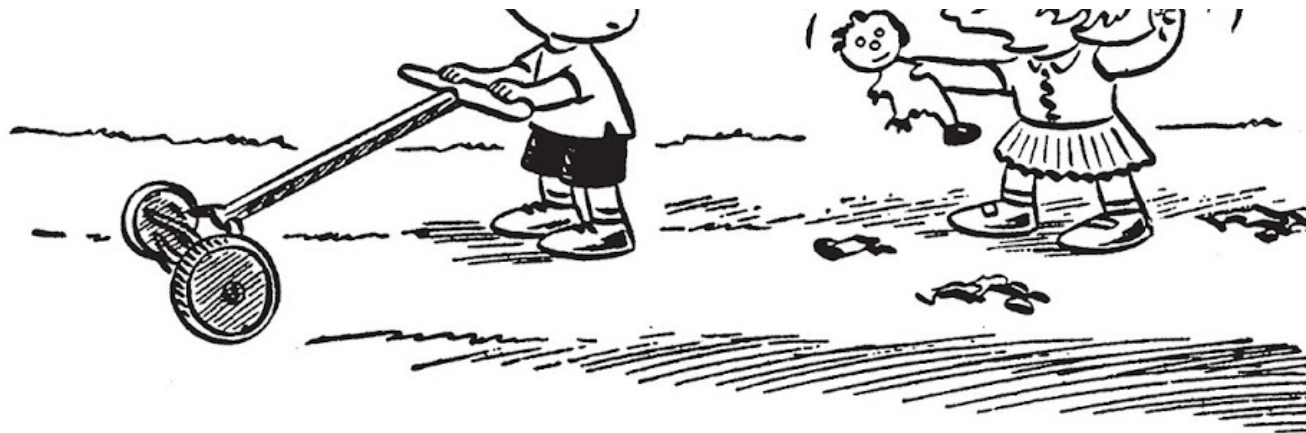


"OF COURSE I THINK THEY'RE NICE. IT'S JUST THAT I PREFER A SLIGHT BREAK AT THE CUFF!"



"YOU MAY HAVE THE PORK CHOP BONE OR THE HAM BONE THE LATTER, BY THE WAY, IS OUR LARGE ECONOMY SIZE..."





" YOU... YOU... YOU... MURDERER !! "

July 11, 1948

July 18, 1948

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"IN RESPONSE TO NO
REQUESTS I WILL NOW
PLAY ONE OF MY
OWN COMPOSITIONS!"





"SIT RIGHT HERE,
YOUNG LADY, AND I SHALL
RELATE TO YOU THE
WONDERS OF THE EAST!"

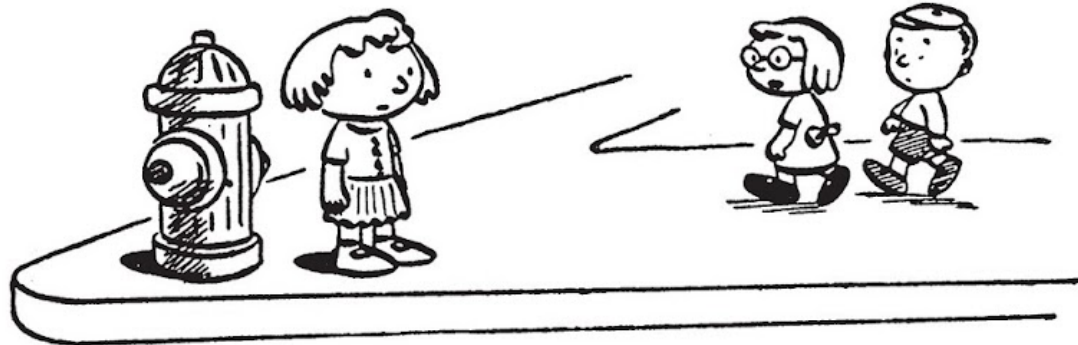
Page 227

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"LET GO!! I DON'T CARE IF YOU DO HATE THE COLOR! LET GO, I SAY!"



"MY, WHAT A FINE LOOKING YOUNG COUPLE..."





"OH, SURE, WE GET ALONG WELL ENOUGH... IT'S
JUST THAT OUR PERSONALITIES AREN'T QUITE THE SAME"

July 25, 1948

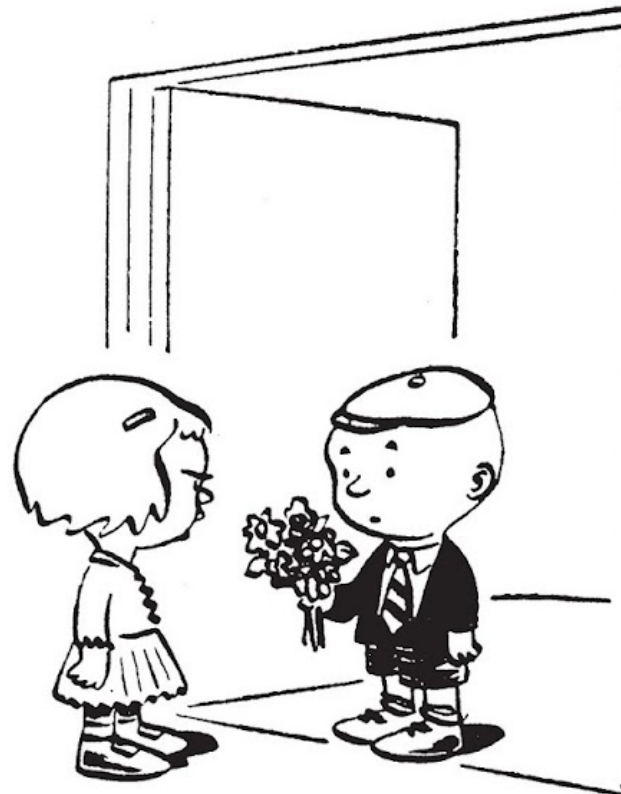
August 1, 1948

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"I WISH YOU'D TRY
TO REGARD ME AS
SOMETHING BESIDE AN
EARTHLY BENEFACTOR!"



"OH, RATS, I WAS
HOPING YOU'D BRING
HAMBURGERS!"





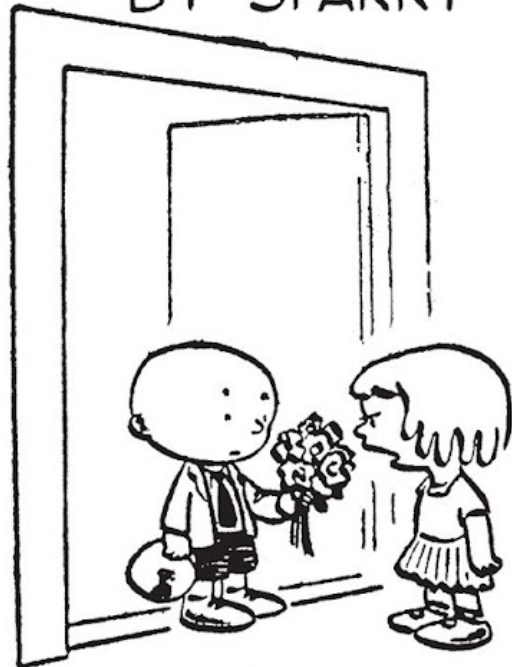
"OH, I'M SORRY...
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU
WANTED ME TO SAVE
THE FUNNIES."



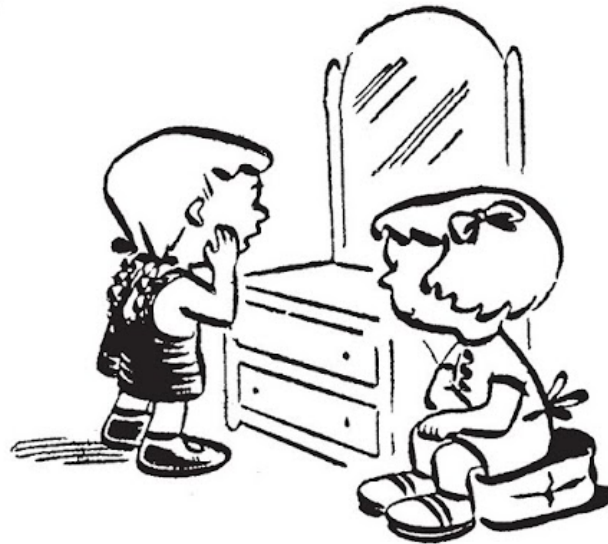
"SLOW DOWN A BIT... I'M NOT
AS SPRY AS I USED TO BE!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

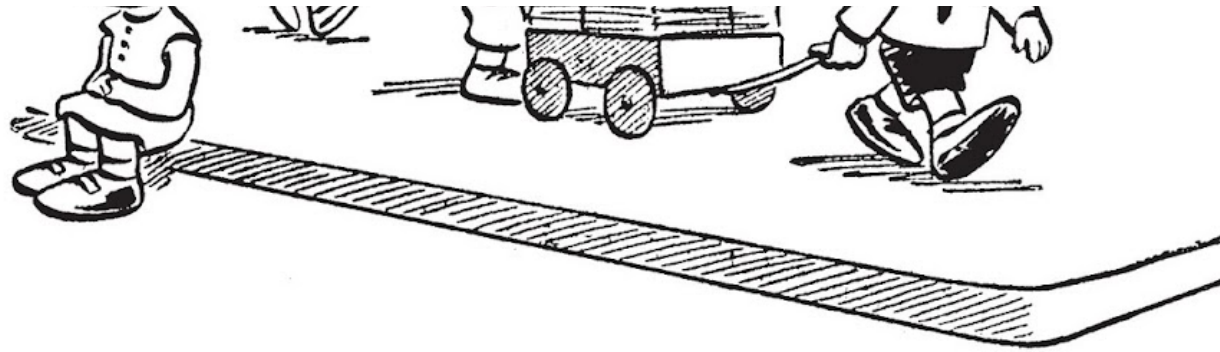


"FLOWERS... SHMOWERS!"



"THIS IS TRAGIC .
IF MY SUN-TAN DISAPPEARS,
MY WHOLE PERSONALITY
IS SHOT !!"





"ALL RIGHT, MEN, LET'S TRY TO
REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE A JOB TO DO!"

August 8, 1948

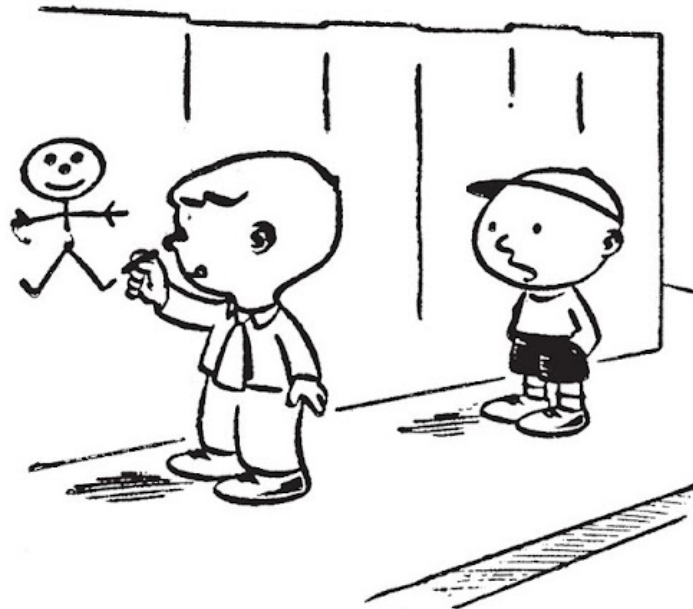
August 15, 1948

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"I LIKE IT HERE... BESIDES,
IF THERE'S A FIRE, I'LL
BE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE
OF ALL THE ACTION!"



" I THINK YOU'D DO
BETTER ACROSS THE STREET.
THE WOOD IN THE FENCE IS
OF MUCH HIGHER QUALITY!"





"YES, SIR, THIS IS THE LIFE FOR ME !.....
BACK TO THE SOIL !!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY





"DON'T CRY....WE WERE JUST KIDDING
I'M NOT REALLY BEING TAKEN TO
THE BASTILLE ! "

August 22, 1948

August 29, 1948

Li'l Folks

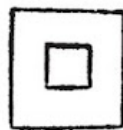
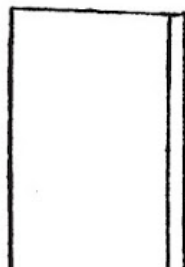
BY SPARKY

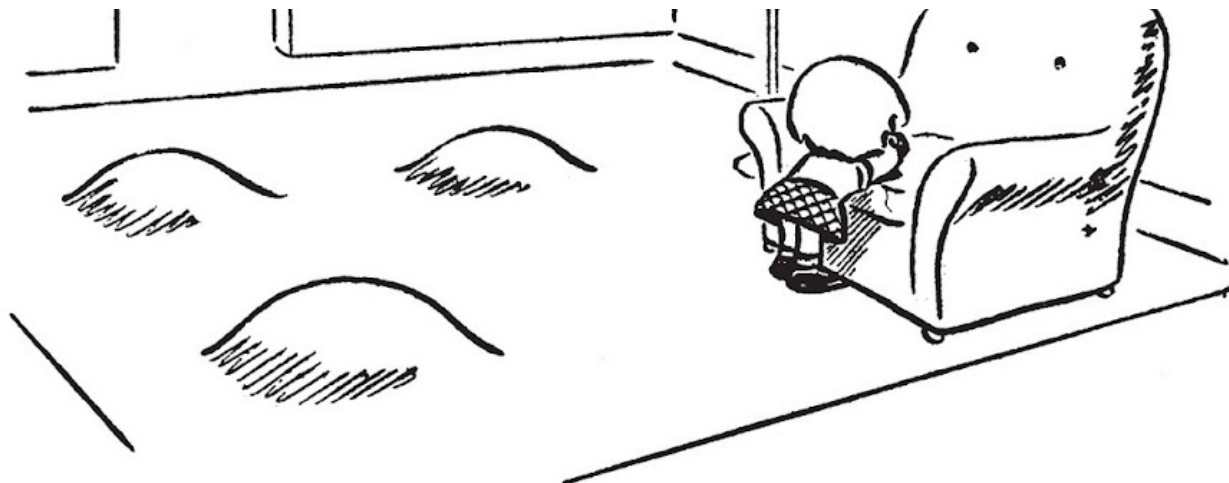


"PLEASE... IT'S
BRAND NEW!"



"YOU'RE SO INTELLIGENT,
AND I'M SO TIRED OF
IT ALL!"





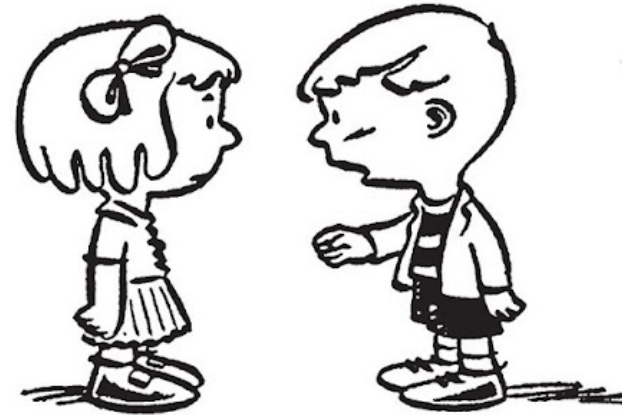
"FORTY-EIGHT, FORTY-NINE, FIFTY! HERE I COME, READY OR NOT!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



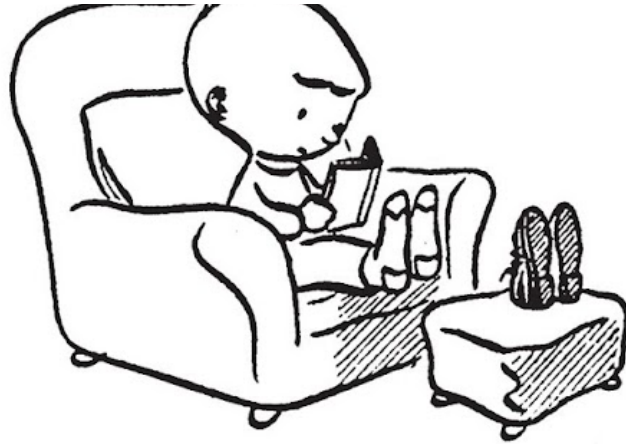
"DON'T BE JEALOUS...WHEN THIS ICE-CREAM IS GONE, I'LL PROBABLY COME BACK TO YOU!"



"MY NAME IS CHARLIE BROWN...I CAN WHISTLE THE ENTIRE SCORE FROM 'DIE FLEDERMAUS'.....WHAT CAN YOU DO?"



September 5, 1948

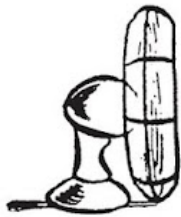


"HA! I KNEW
WE WEREN'T
ALONE!!"

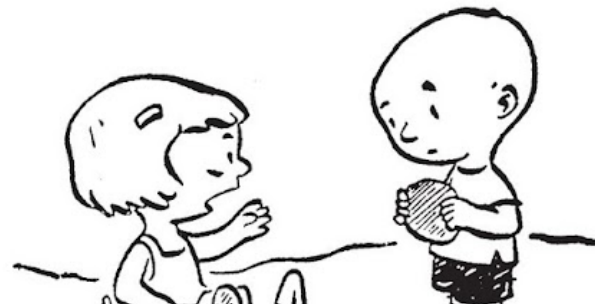
September 12, 1948

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"ROVER! ROVER!!
HERE, ROVER!"



"BACK TO SCHOOL!
PERSONALLY, I THINK
WE'RE JUST BEING
SLAVES TO A
SILLY CUSTOM!"



"WAIT !! DON'T EAT
THAT MUD-PIE.... IT
FELL IN THE DIRT!"

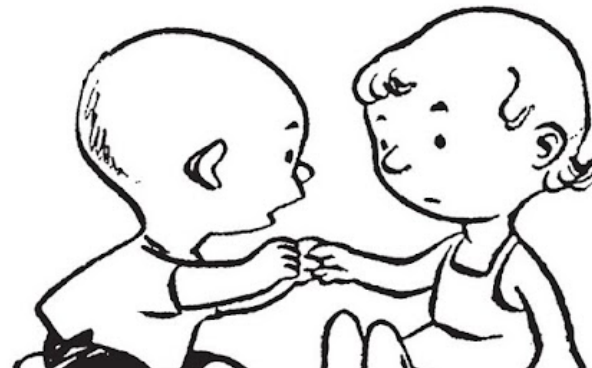
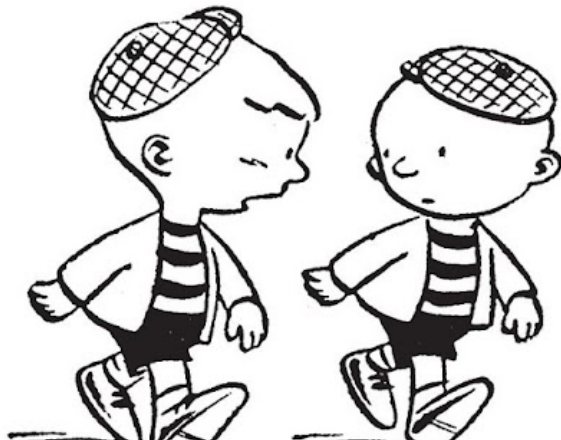
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Li'l Folks

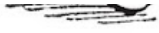

BY SPARKY



"I ONCE TRIED READING THAT MYSELF, BUT THERE WERE SO MANY CHARACTERS I NEVER GOT PAST THE FIRST CHAPTER!"



September 19, 1948



"I DON'T KNOW WHERE I
GOT THE IDEA, BUT I
HAVE A FEELING THAT
YOU AND I HAVE A
LOT IN COMMON!"



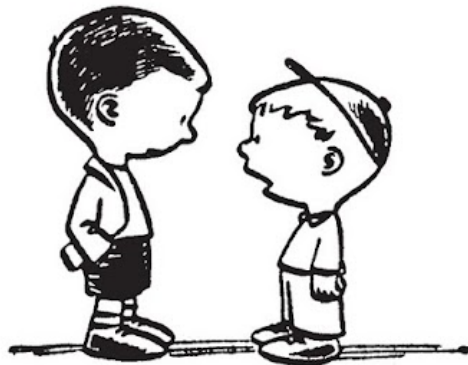
" YOUR EYES,...
YOUR HAIR,...
YOUR TOOTH!"

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September 26, 1948

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

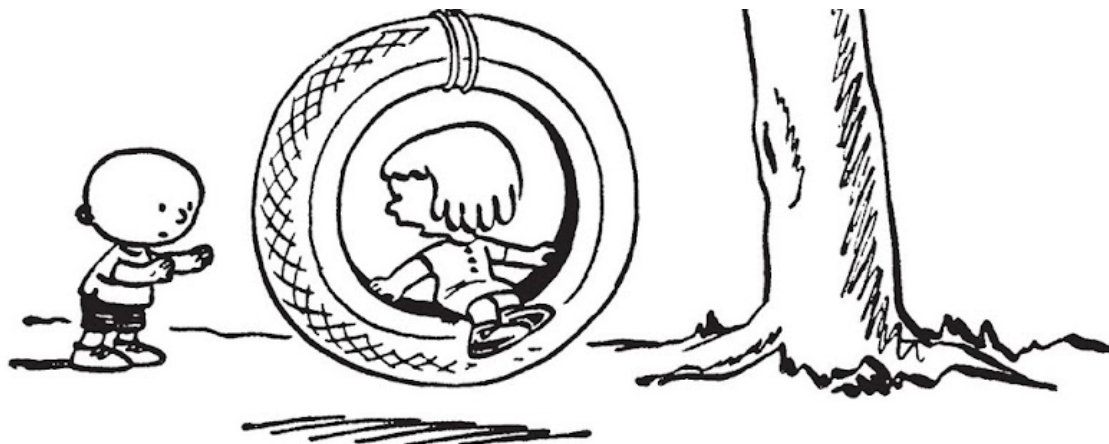


"I'VE COME TO YOU
BECAUSE I NEED THE
ADVICE OF AN OLDER MAN."



"WOULD I BE BUCKING
TRADITION TOO MUCH IF
I RELAXED NOW, AND
WENT TO SCHOOL LATER
IN MY OLD AGE?"

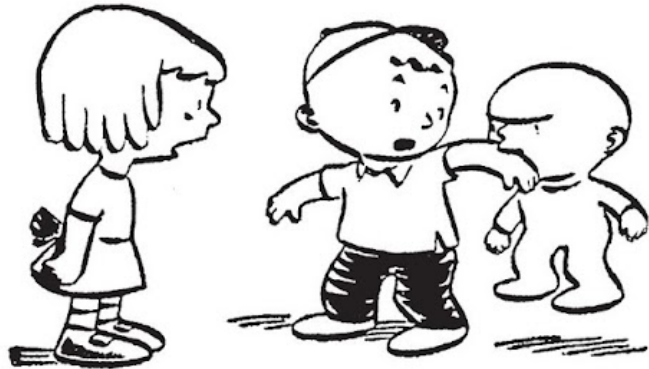




"NOT TOO FAST NOW...I'M SCARED TO DEATH OF A BLOWOUT!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

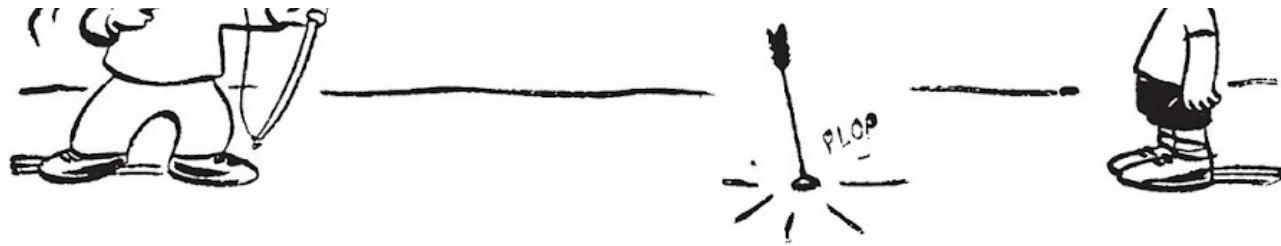


"OH, I'M SORRY....
I SHOULD HAVE WARNED
YOU THAT HE BITES!"



"YOUR EYES, YOUR HAIR,
YOUR ANSWERS TO THE
HISTORY TEST QUESTIONS"





"THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT UP TO NOW I'VE
BEEN DOING A LOT OF WORRYING FOR NOTHING!"

October 3, 1948

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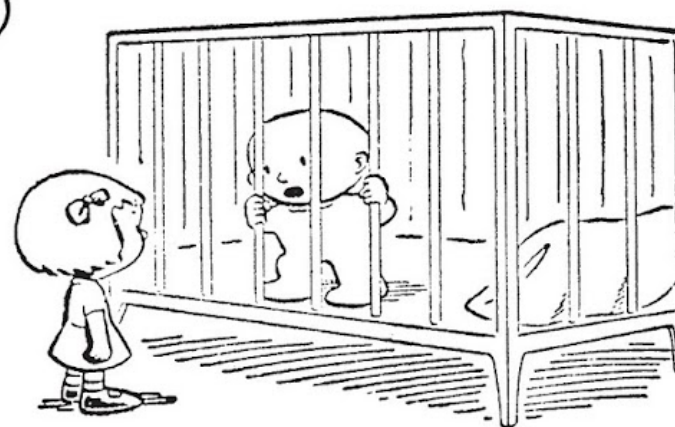
October 10, 1948

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

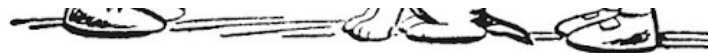


"PLEASE GO ON...DON'T STOP
READING BECAUSE OF ME!"



"THE NEXT TIME YOU COME SEE IF
YOU CAN SLIP ME A RATTLE
WITH A FILE IN IT!"





"WE'VE STILL GOT
A CHANCE....
GRANDMA'S GOING IN
AT FULLBACK!"

" I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
ALL I CAN SEE IS
SOMETHING THAT APPEARS
TO BE A BIG EYE ! "

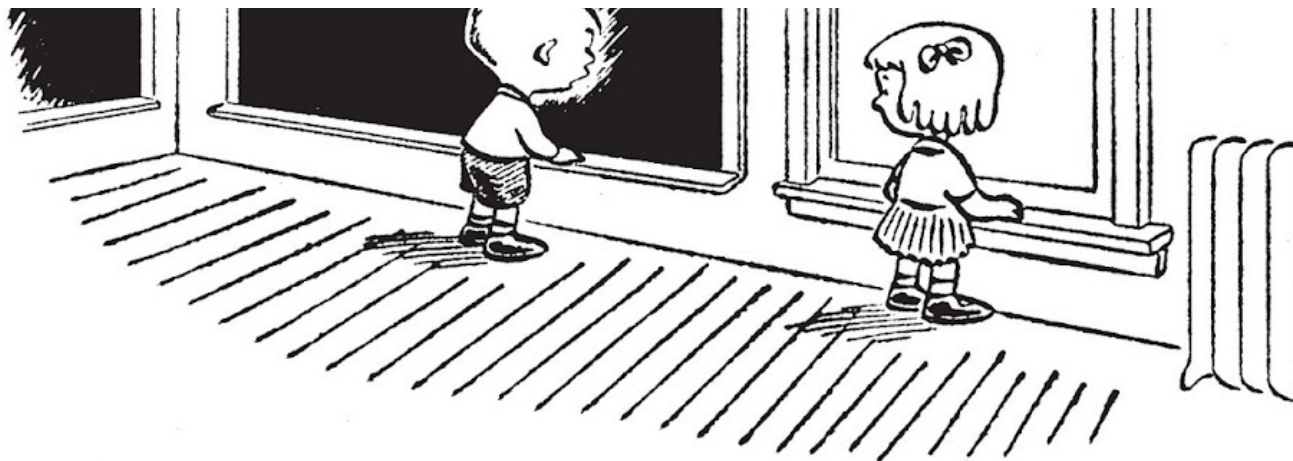
Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"GIRLS NEED UMBRELLAS MORE
THAN BOYS...GIRLS ARE MADE
OF SUGAR AND SPICE!"





October 17, 1948

"BOY! IS IT EVER DARK OUTSIDE!!"

October 24, 1948

Li'l Folks

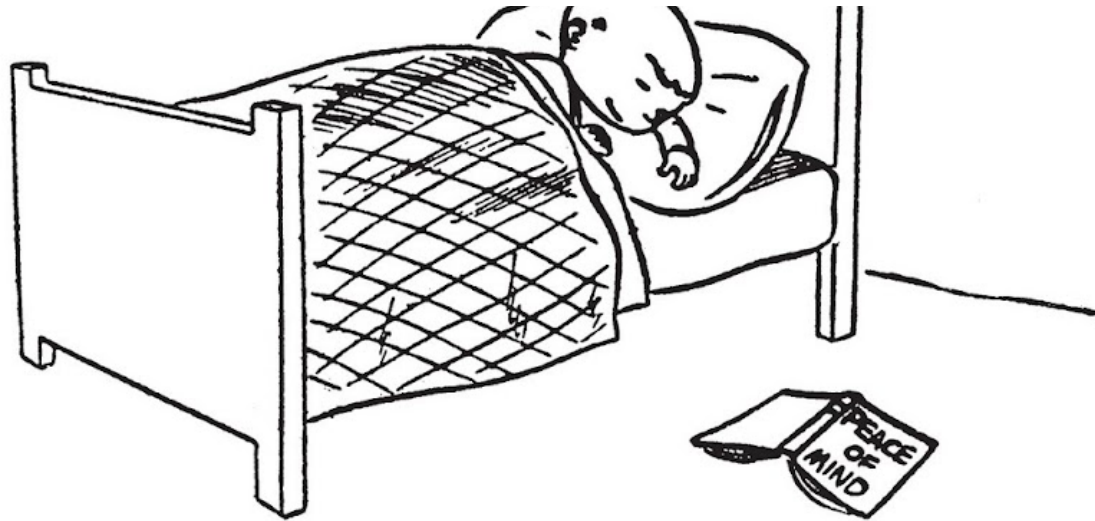
BY SPARKY



"GO AHEAD, AND RUN
OVER ME... I'M WEARY
OF IT ALL ANYWAY.."

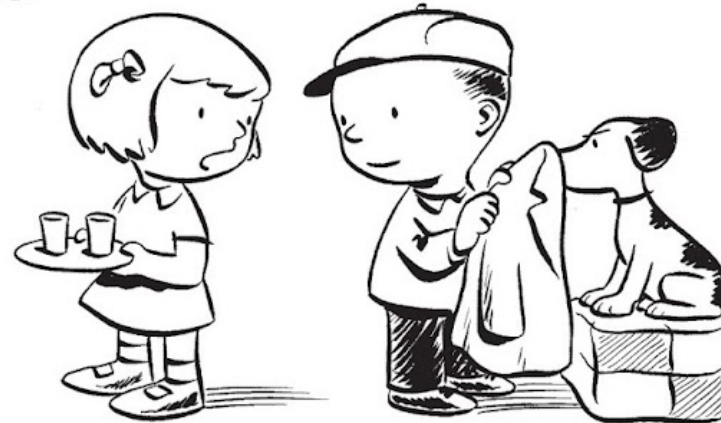
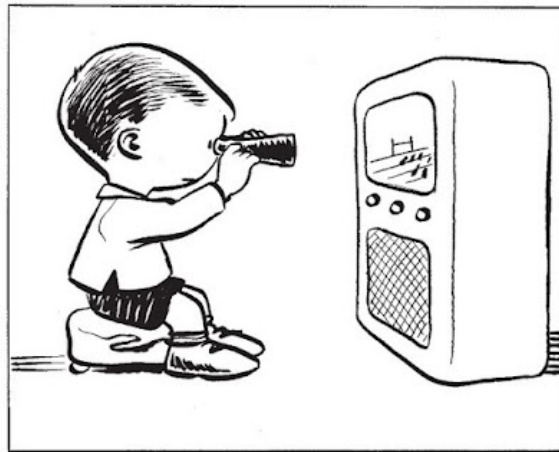
"ALL RIGHT, SO YOU'VE
KNOWN ME FOR ONLY
TWO YEARS! CAN I
HELP IT IF I'VE BEEN
ALIVE FOR ONLY
THREE ?! "



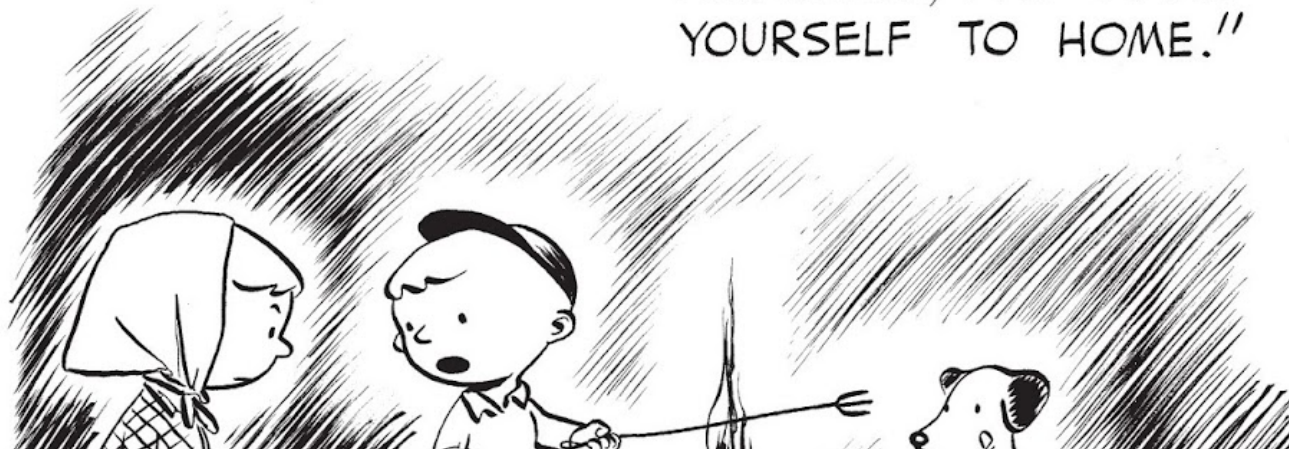


Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"JUST HANG YOUR COAT
ANYWHERE, AND MAKE
YOURSELF TO HOME."





October 31, 1948

" TRY TO BE MORE PATIENT...WEINERS
DON'T ROAST IN A SECOND, YOU KNOW! "

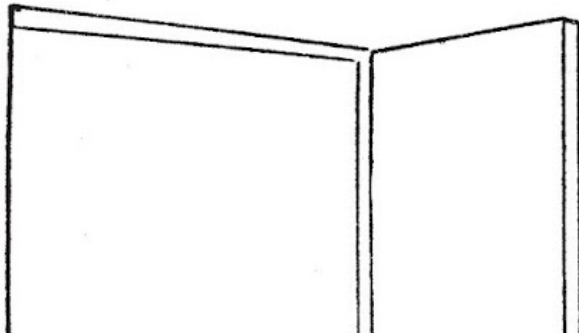
November 7, 1948

Li'l Folks

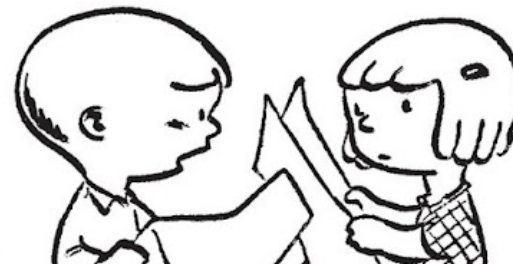
BY SPARKY

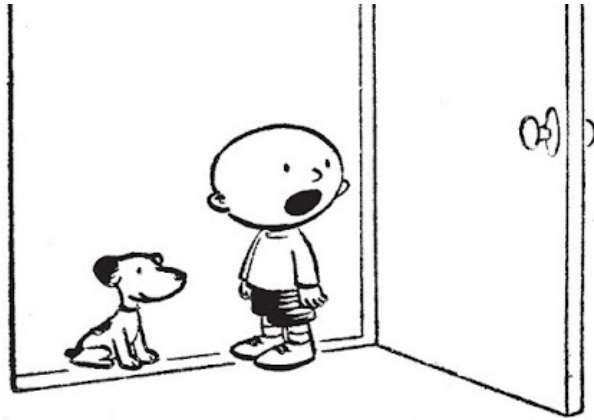


"WHY DON'T YOU TRY
REASONING WITH HIM?"



"CHECK, PLEASE!"





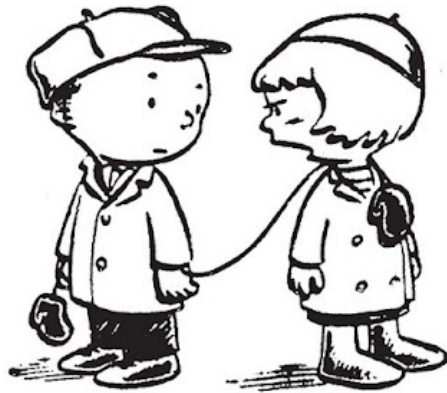
"BETTER PUT ON
ANOTHER LAMB CHOP...
WE'VE GOT COMPANY!!"



"FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN
HEARING LATELY, WE'RE
NOT MISSING MUCH BY
NOT KNOWING HOW
TO READ!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

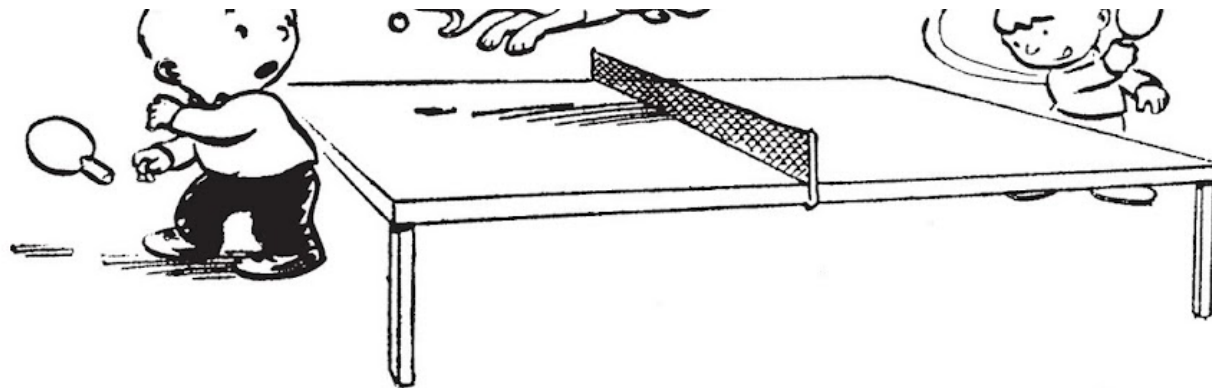


"PLEASE!"



"I DREAMED ABOUT
YOU LAST NIGHT....
RUINED A GOOD
NIGHT'S SLEEP!"





November 14, 1948

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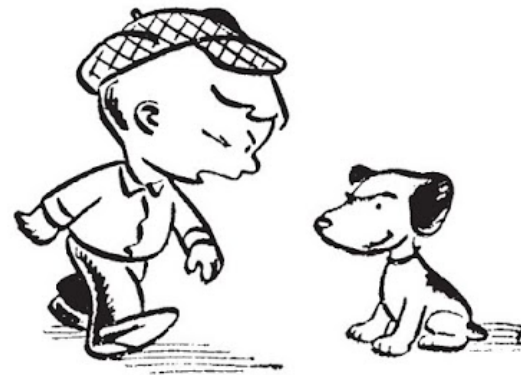
November 21, 1948

Li'l Folks

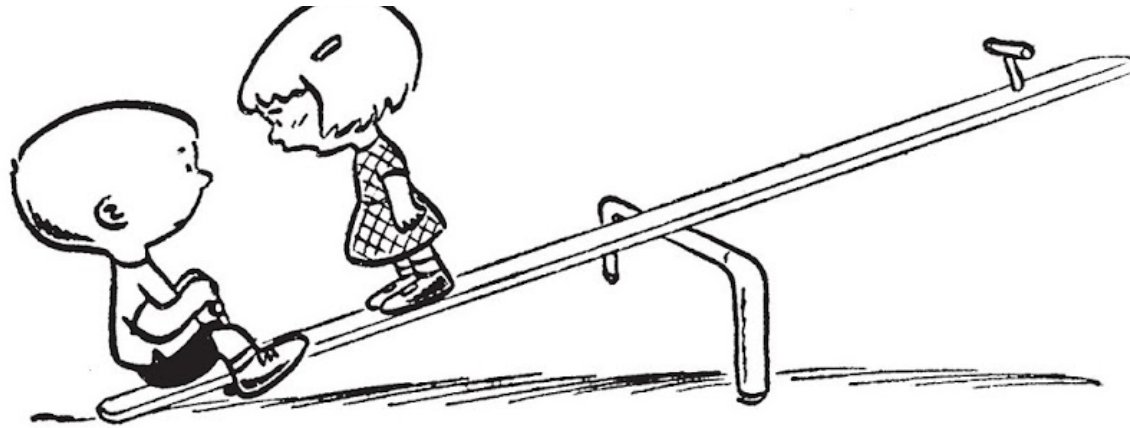
BY SPARKY



"ALL RIGHT, IF YOU MUST KNOW
WHAT'S PLAYING, GO AHEAD, AND
STOP THE RECORD!"



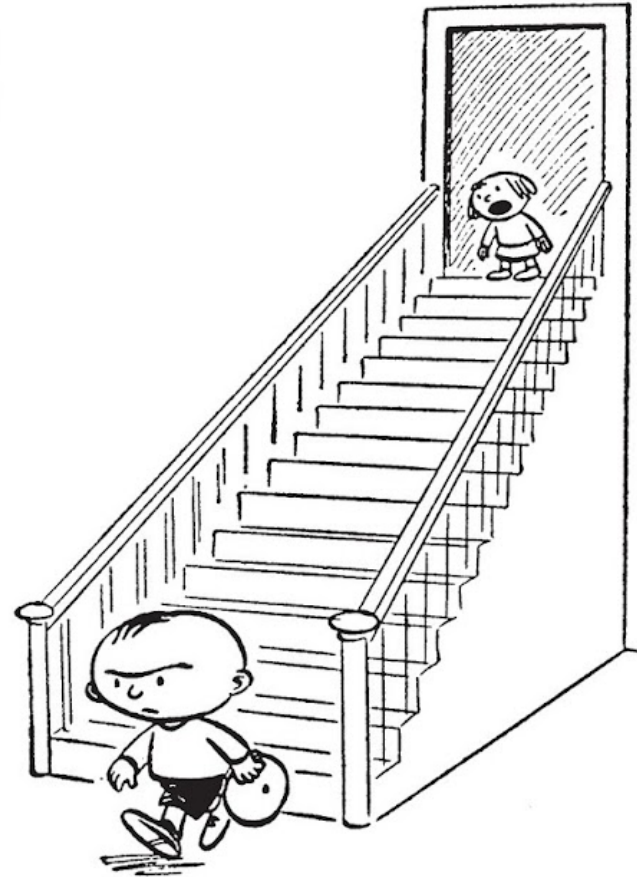
"IF YOU WERE REALLY
MAN'S BEST FRIEND,
YOU WOULDN'T SNEER
AT ME EVERYTIME I
WALK BY !!"



" I GOT LONESOME ! "

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"STICKS AND STONES MAY BREAK
MY BONES, BUT NAMES WILL NEVER
HURT ME.....YOU BONEHEAD!
YOU NUMSKULL! YOU BIRDBRAIN!"



November 28, 1948



"STOP SAYING, 'LOVE ME, LOVE MY DOG!'"

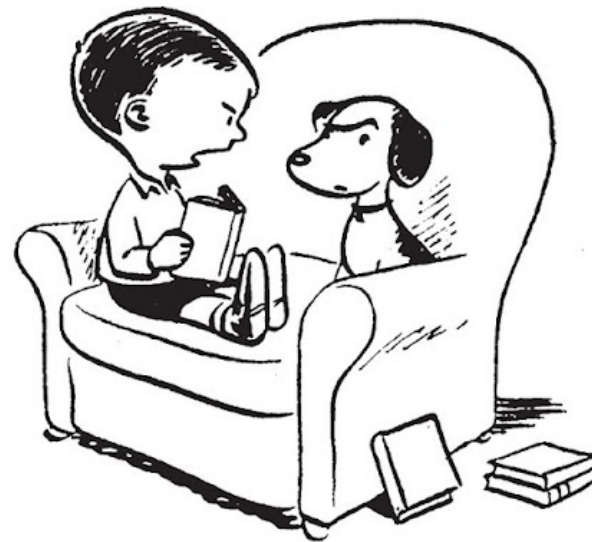
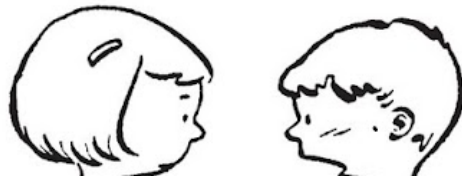
December 5, 1948

Li'l Folks

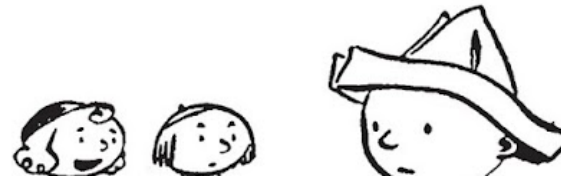
BY SPARKY



"GROW, YOU FOOL!!
YOU'VE GOT A DEADLINE
TO MEET!"

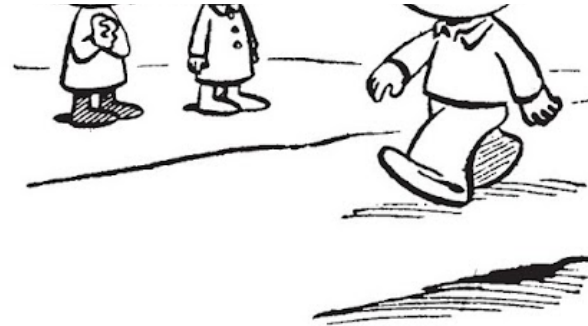


"SUPPOSE WE TRY SOMETHING
ELSE THIS AFTERNOON BESIDES
ALBERT PAYSON TERHUNE!"





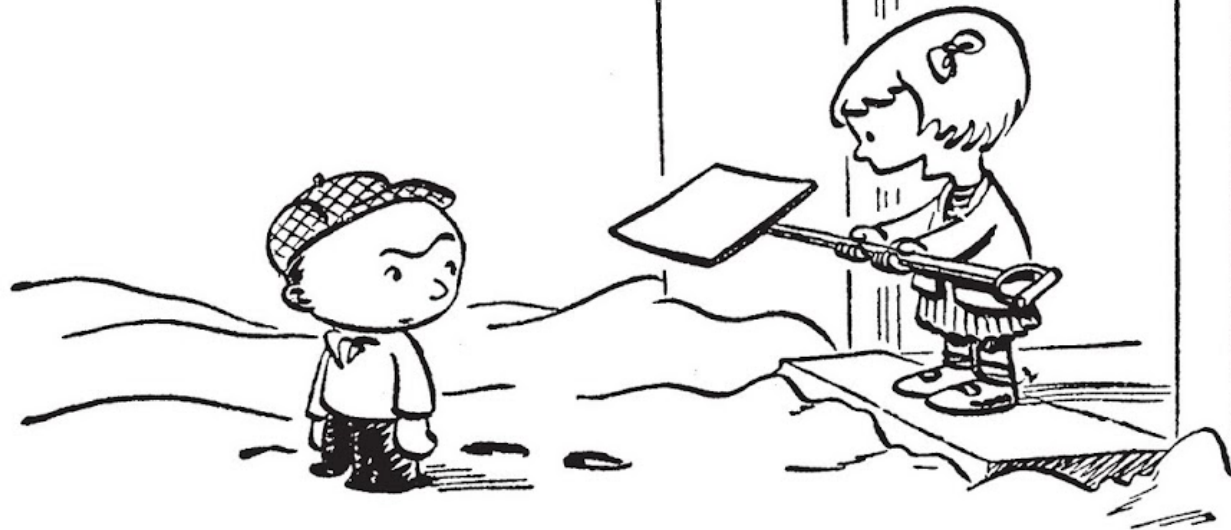
"WHY WAIT UNTIL AFTER
I GRADUATE? LET'S GET
MARRIED NOW BEFORE I
EVEN START SCHOOL!"



"THERE'S SOMETHING
ABOUT A UNIFORM THAT
ALWAYS THRILLS ME!"

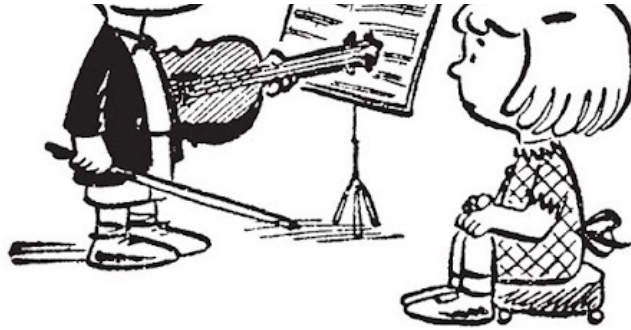
Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



" HERE, TAKE IT.... THEY SAY IT'S SO
SIMPLE EVEN A CHILD CAN OPERATE IT ! "





" BEETHOVEN AND I
CAN'T SEEM TO AGREE
ON ANYTHING! "

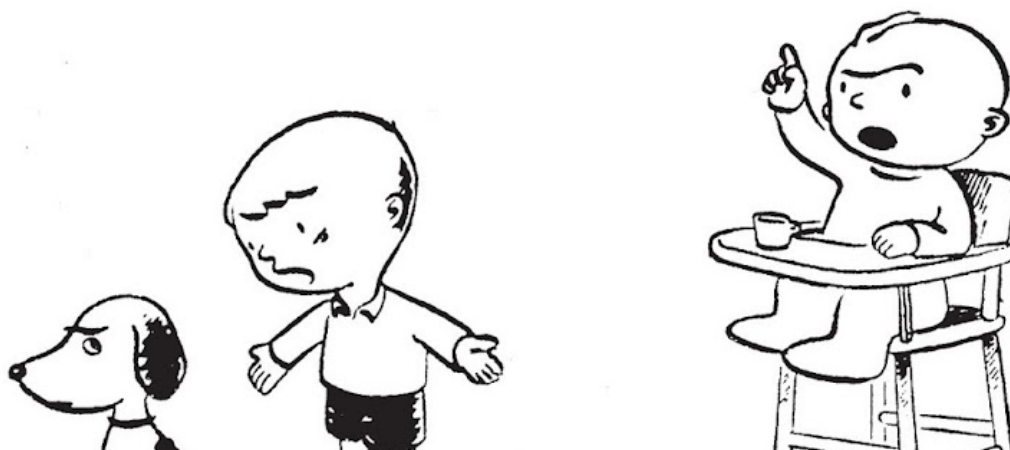


December 12, 1948

December 19, 1948

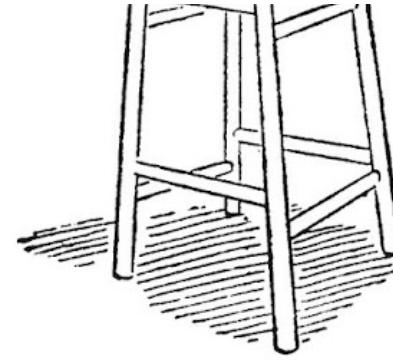
Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY





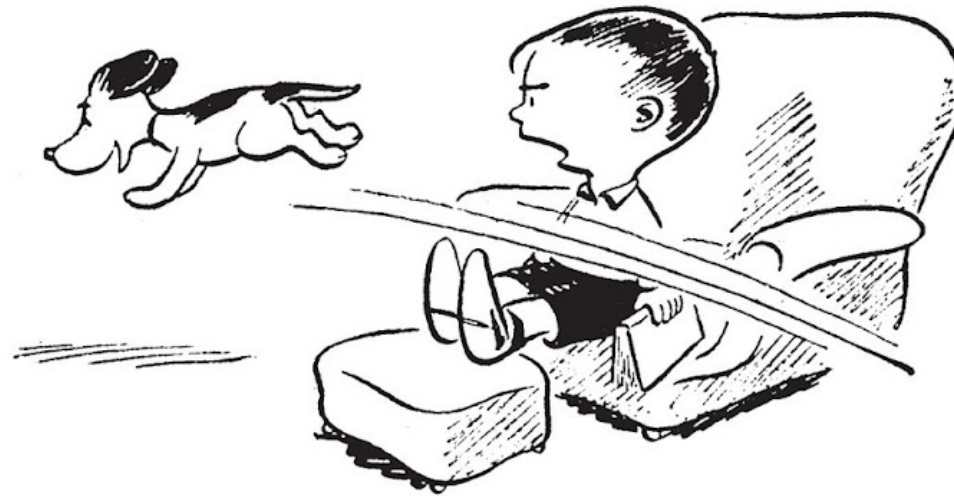
"IF YOU WANT TO GET
MARRIED, WELL, ALL RIGHT....
BUT WHY NOT PICK
SOMEONE RESPECTFUL?"



"CAN'T YOU MAKE IT
SNAPPY?... I'VE GOT
A TRAIN TO CATCH!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY REALIZE HOW
DISTURBING THAT IS !"





"YOU WERE THE ONE
WHO SAID IT WAS
GOING TO BE FREEZING
TODAY!"



"AS I SIT HERE
VIEWING THE PASSING
PARADE, I GET THE
FEELING THAT LIFE
HAS PASSED ME BY!"

December 26, 1948

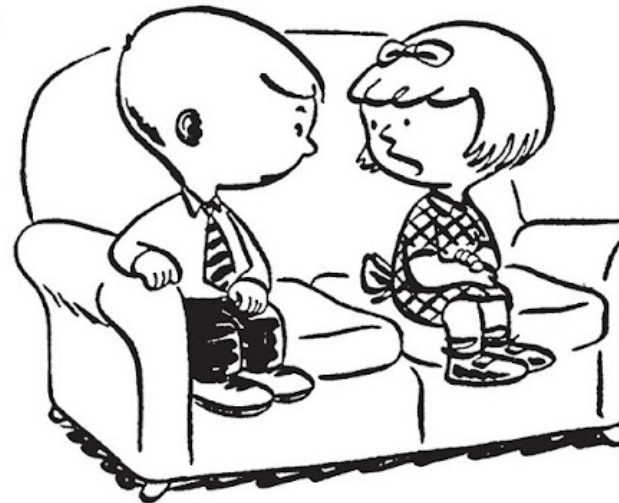
January 2, 1949

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

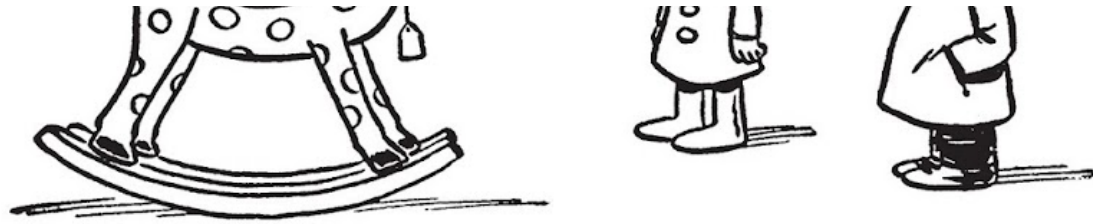


"GUESS WHO !"



"BORE ME WITH THE
STORY OF YOUR LIFE!"





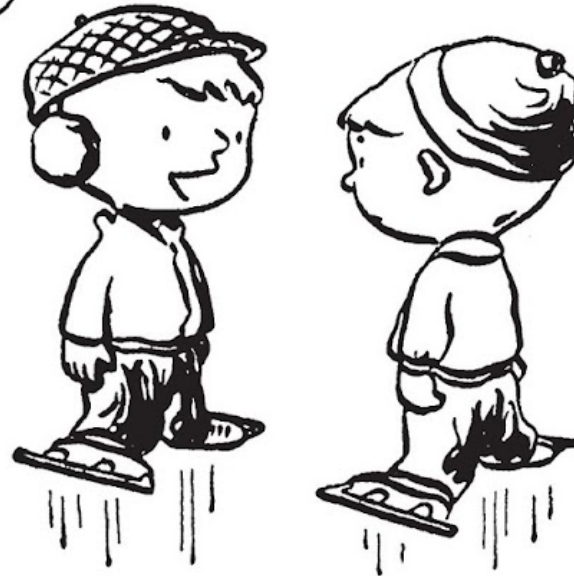
"SURE, I'D LIKE TO HAVE ONE, BUT YOU KNOW HOW MUCH TROUBLE THEY ARE.. THE FEED BILLS ALONE WOULD BE ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU BROKE!"

Li'l Folks

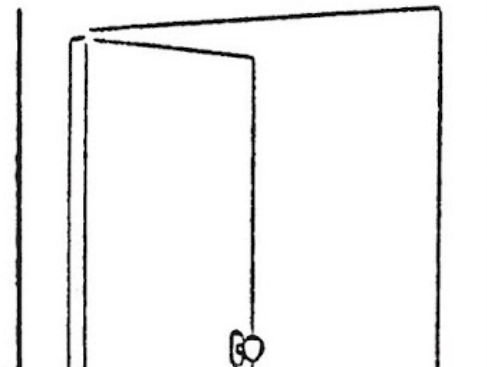
BY SPARKY



"AND JUST WHAT DO
YOU INTEND TO SAY
IF 'STOP THE MUSIC'
DOES CALL YOU?"



"LET'S JUMP
OVER BARRELS!"





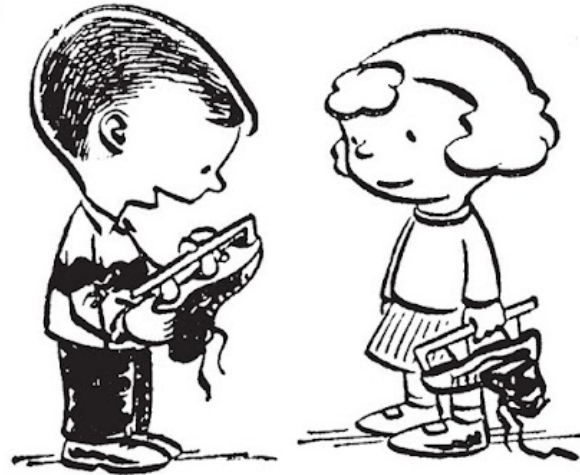
January 9, 1949

"YOU'RE THE MOST INCONSIDERATE PERSON I'VE EVER KNOWN."

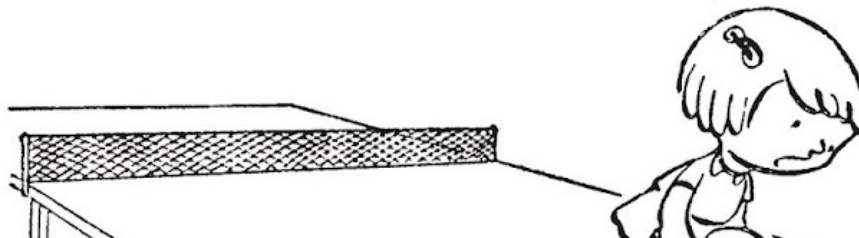
January 16, 1949

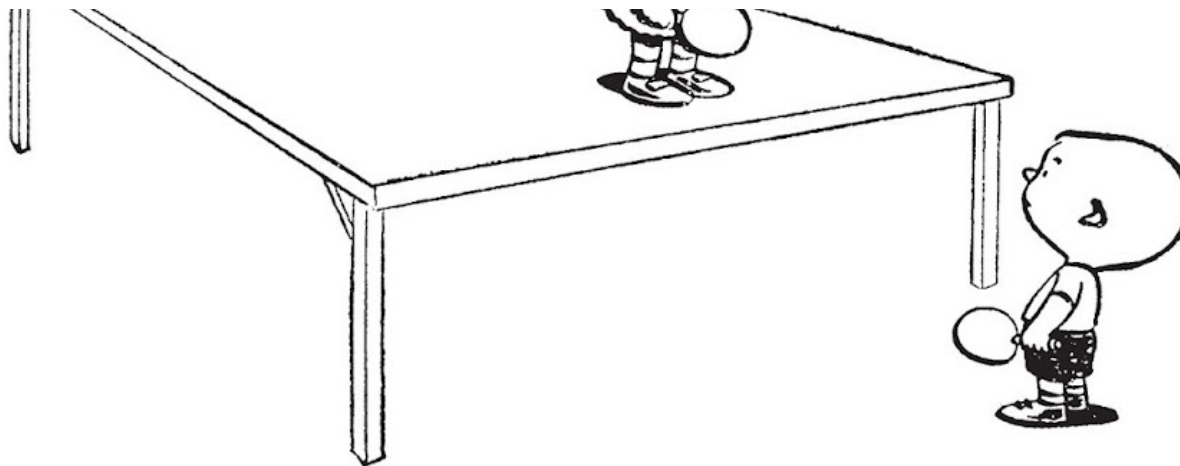
Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT....
GRANDMA'S THE BEST SKATE
SHARPENER IN THE BUSINESS."





"I WAS WORRIED...I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE LEFT!"

Li'l Folks

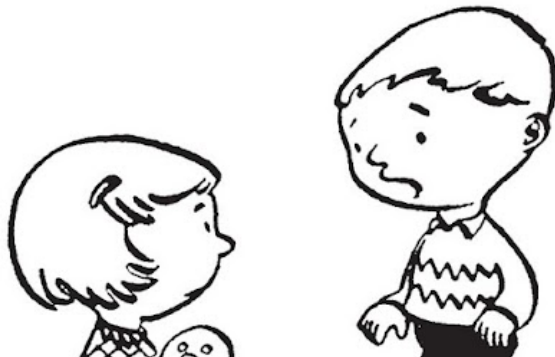
BY SPARKY



"SEE? NOW YOU LOOK JUST
LIKE YOUR FATHER!"



"AGNES? MARIE?
DOROTHY?"





"WOW!! ONE MORE
SPANKING LIKE THAT,
AND I'LL BE
ELIGIBLE FOR THE
PURPLE HEART!"

"WELL, THERE'S AT
LEAST ONE THING
WE MAY SAY FOR
CERTAIN....YOU HAVE
A HAND!"

January 23, 1949

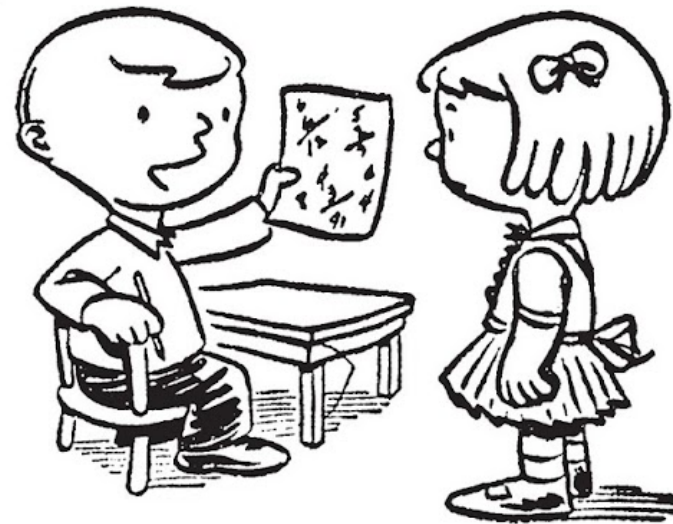
January 30, 1949

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"AND WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK THEY BELONG
TO MY MOTHER?"

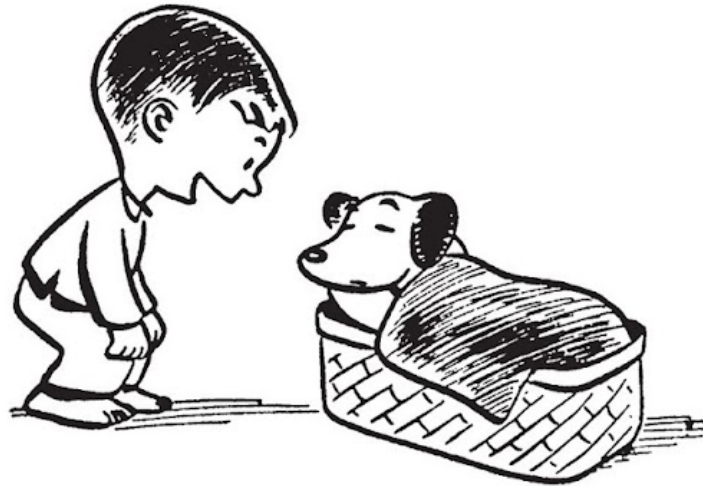


"I'VE DISCOVERED WHAT
I THINK WILL BE A
GREAT TIME-SAVER....
NO MORE BATHS!"



Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"GOOD MORNING!! WHAT DO YOU SAY TO STARTING OFF THE DAY WITH A SMILE?"



"THE SERVICE IN THIS PLACE GETS WORSE EVERYDAY!"





February 6, 1949

"LET'S GET OUT OF HERE...THIS GIVES ME THE CHILLS!"

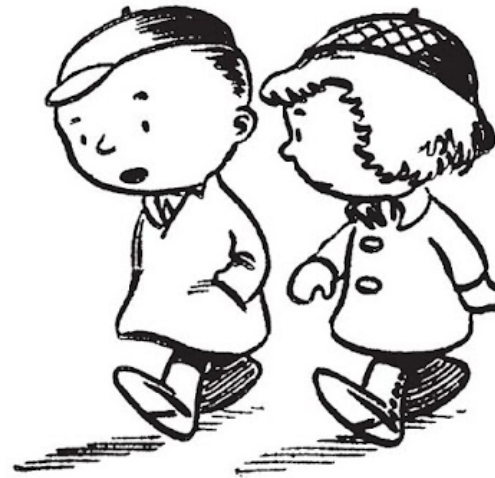
February 13, 1949

Li'l Folks

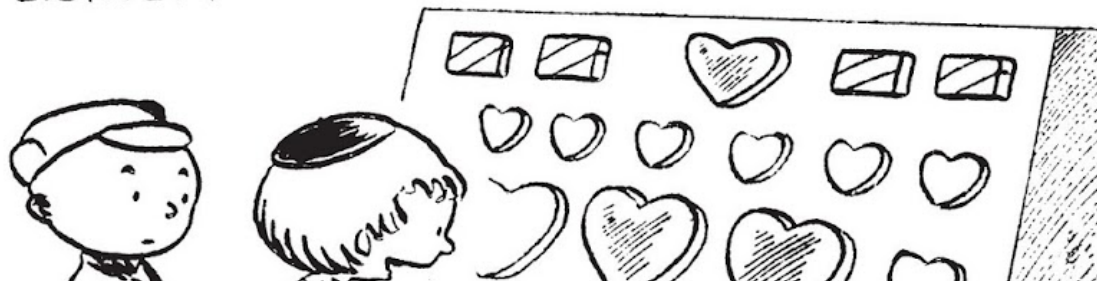
BY SPARKY

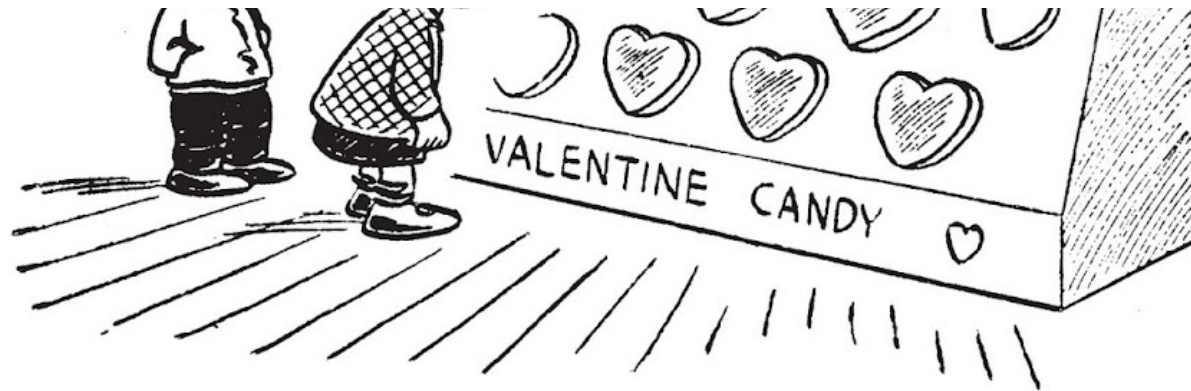


"EDGAR ALLAN POE IS
NOT TO BE TAKEN
SO LIGHTLY!"



"YESTERDAY YOU FASCINATED
ME... TODAY YOU CONFUSE
ME... I WONDER WHAT
TOMORROW WILL BRING?"





"YES, SIR!! A MOST IMPRESSIVE LOOKING LAYOUT!"

Page 257

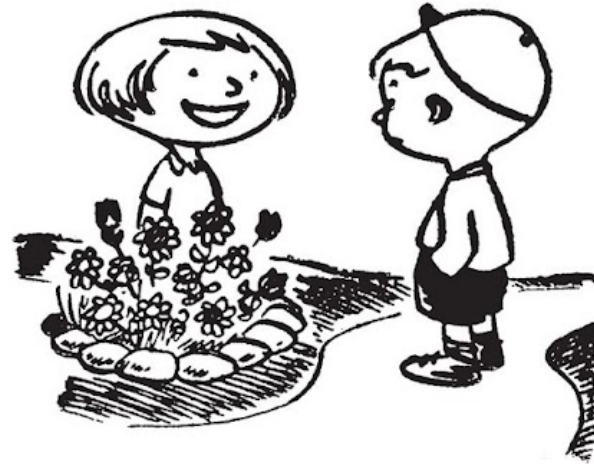
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Li'l Folks

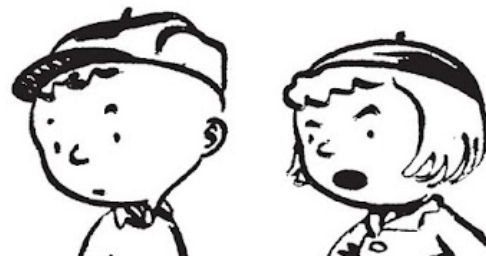
BY SPARKY

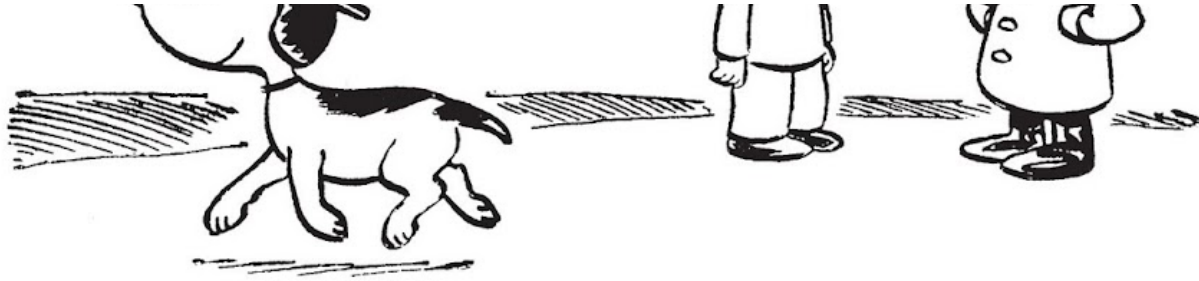


"I'LL BET BEETHOVEN
WOULD HAVE HATED ME!"



"HERE'S YOUR BIG
CHANCE TO SAY
SOMETHING SWEET!"





"WELL, HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?! PASSED US
RIGHT BY WITHOUT SO MUCH AS TIPPING HIS HAT!"

February 20, 1949

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February 27, 1949

Li'l Folks

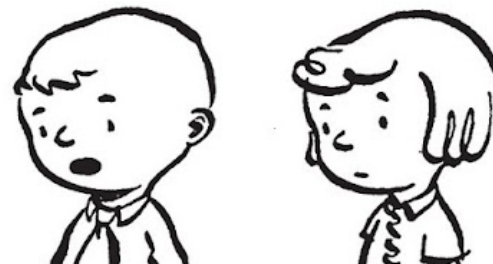
BY SPARKY

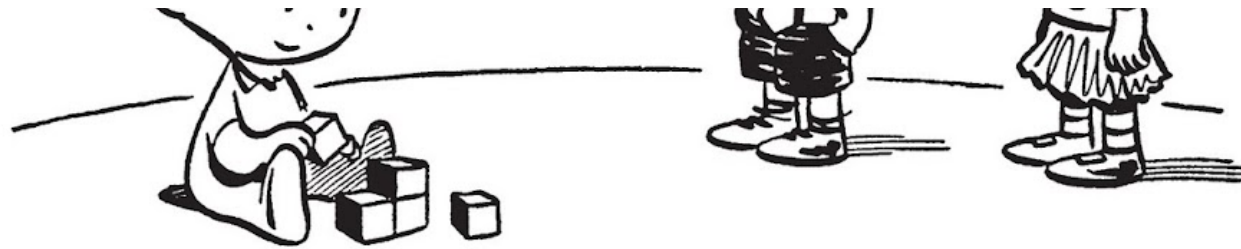


"BOY, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!
WHO ARE YOU?"



"THAT'S ALL RIGHT...
STAY WHERE YOU ARE...
I'LL EAT LATER."





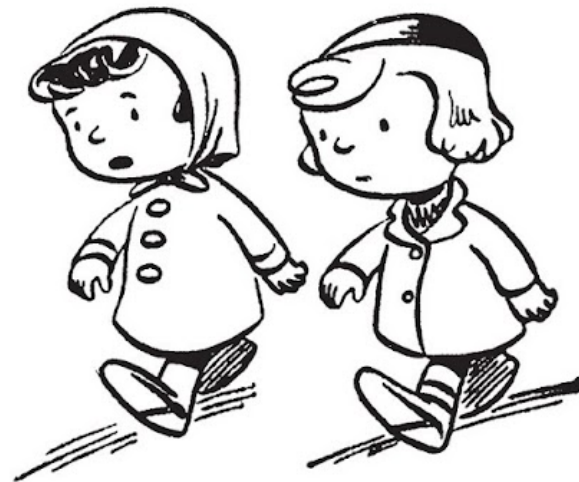
"JUST LOOK AT HIM... NO WORRIES, NO CARES....
HOW I WISH THAT I WERE THAT AGE AGAIN!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"DO YOU THINK I
COULD HAVE HAD ANYTHING
TO DO WITH THE DEATH
OF BEETHOVEN ? "

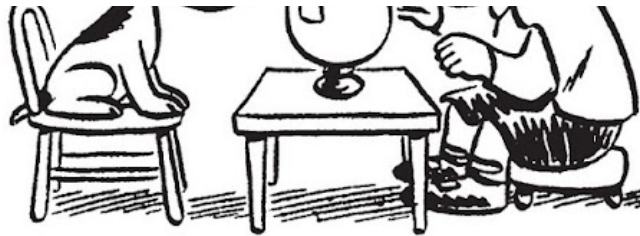


"I'VE LOST ALL MY
AMBITION SINCE I HEARD
THAT A HOUSEWIFE
HASN'T A CHANCE EVER
TO BECOME FAMOUS!"





"I'D LIKE TO LIVE IN
THE SOUTH SO I
COULD MAKE MUD PIES
ALL YEAR 'ROUND!"



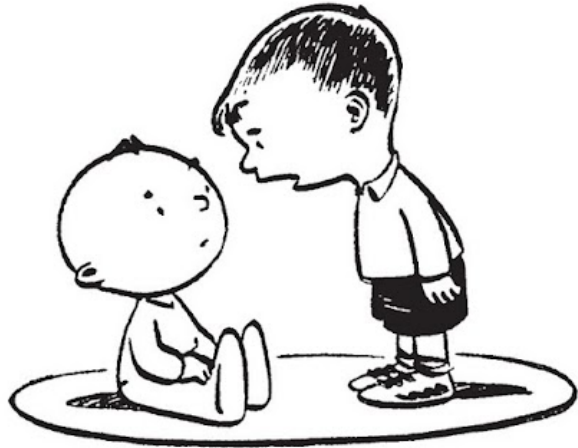
"BEWARE OF A LARGE
BLACK SPANIEL!"

March 6, 1949

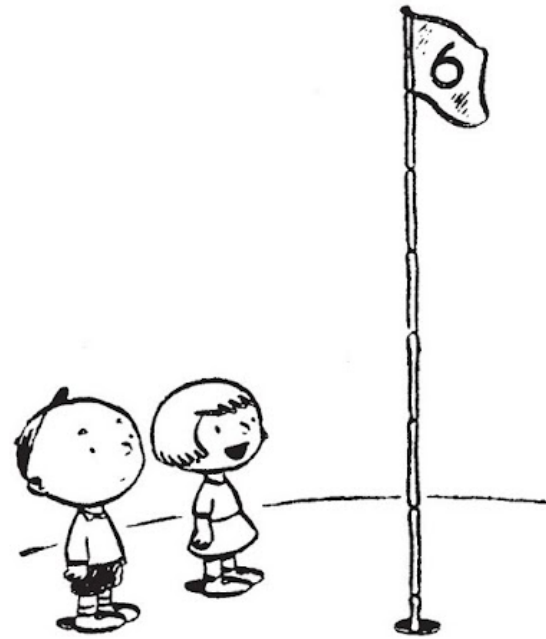
March 13, 1949

Li'l Folks

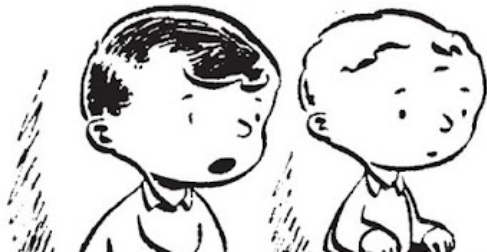
BY SPARKY

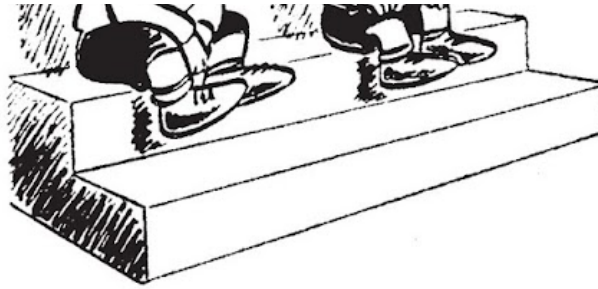


"OH, HOW I TREMBLE WHEN
I THINK OF THE GREAT TASK
THAT FACES YOUR GENERATION!"



"I THINK THEY'RE
BEAUTIFUL... THEY GROW
SO TALL AND STRAIGHT"





"GIRLS AND DOGS.... UNDOUBTEDLY TWO OF
MANKIND'S GREATEST MYSTERIES!"

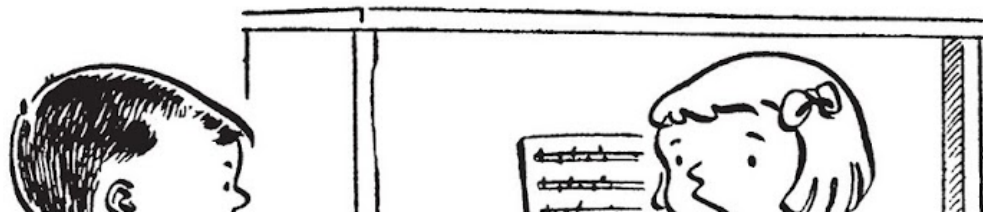
Li'l Folks

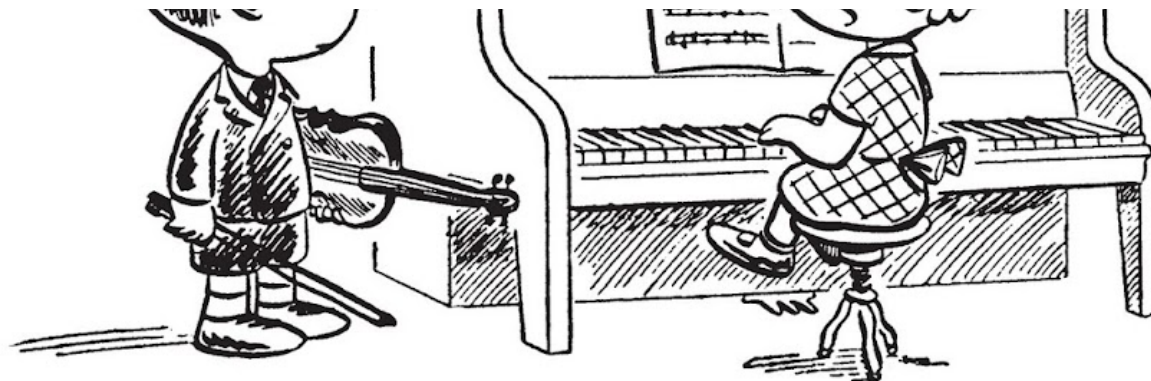
BY SPARKY



"IT'S VERY SAD....APPARENTLY
HE'S BECOME BORED WITH
HIS MEANINGLESS EXISTENCE!"

"HOW ABOUT SOME SERVICE?!
DO YOU WANT ME TO BE
LATE FOR WORK ?!! "





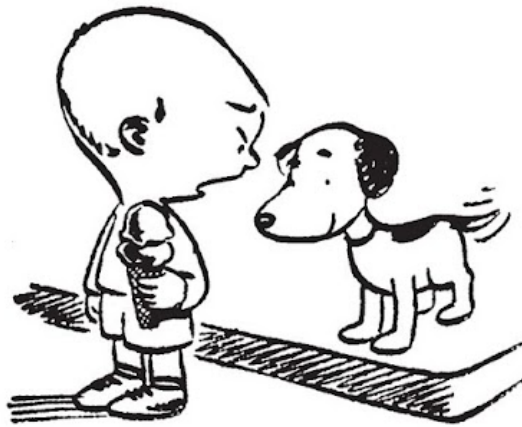
March 20, 1949

"LAST NIGHT I DREAMED THAT BEETHOVEN STRANGLED ME!"

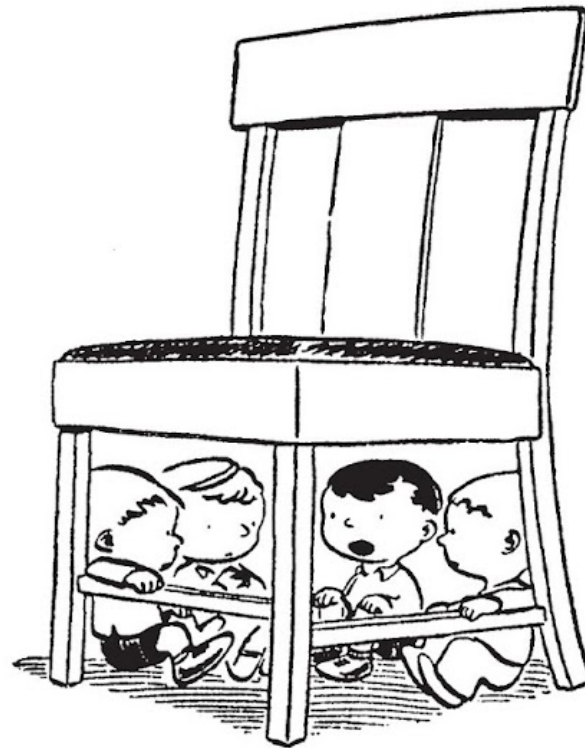
March 27, 1949

Li'l Folks

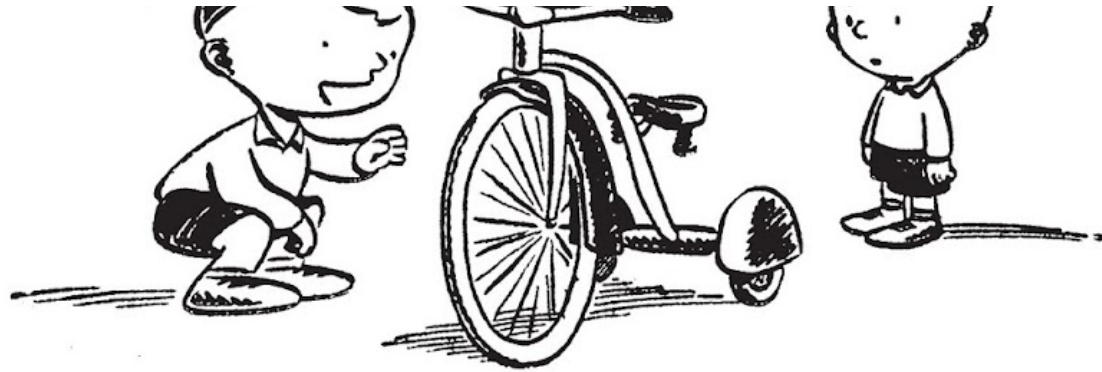
BY SPARKY



"LET'S NOT OVERDO
THIS BUSINESS OF
BEING MAN'S BEST
FRIEND!"



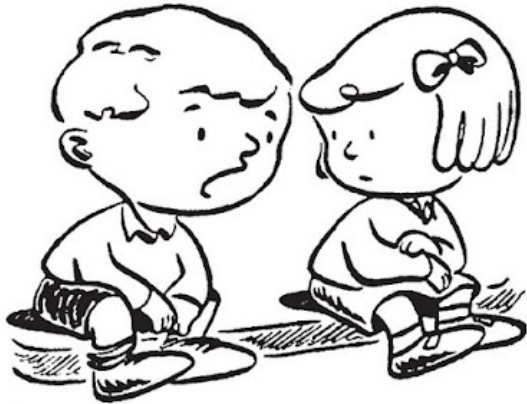
"I MAKE A MOTION THAT WE
ALL BEGIN SEARCHING FOR A
LARGER CLUB HOUSE!"



"SAY, I'LL BET WE COULD TURN THIS
INTO A PRETTY GOOD HOT-ROD!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"I'D SORT OF LIKE TO BE
A REGULAR ROUGHNECK,
BUT I'M AFRAID I'M NOT
STRONG ENOUGH!"



"LET'S SKIP THE BABY
FOOD TODAY, GIRLIE, AND
BRING ME A NICE BIG
T-BONE STEAK!"





"WHAT'S THIS I HEAR ABOUT YOU GUYS
APPLYING FOR A STATE BONUS?"

April 3, 1949

April 10, 1949

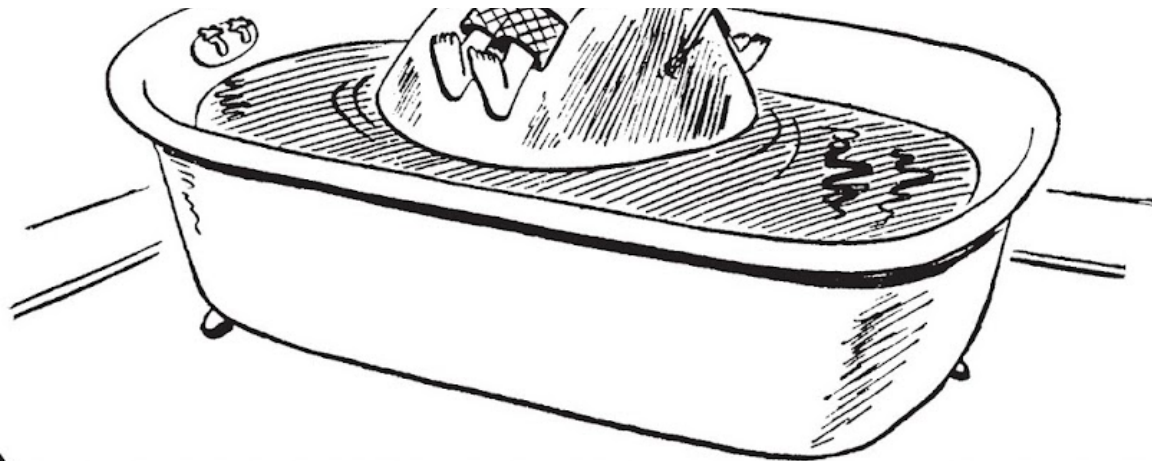
Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"HOW DO YOU EXPECT
ME TO SLEEP WITH THE
REST OF THE WORLD
TOSSED IN TURMOIL?"





"IF WE GET BORED, WE CAN ALWAYS PULL OUT THE PLUG, AND HEAD FOR THE MAINLAND!"

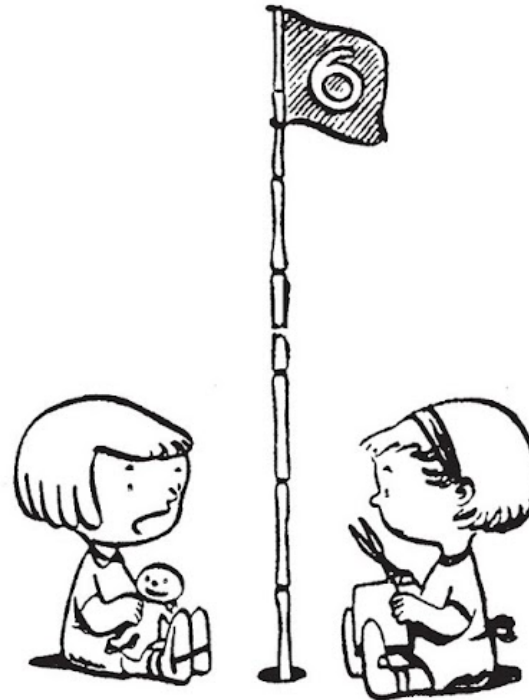
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Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

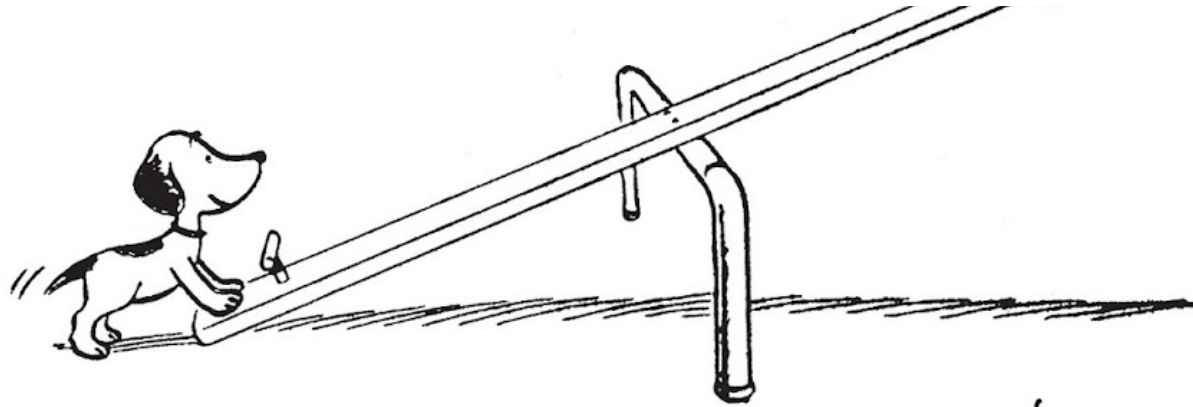


"YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY
IMAGINE HOW GLAD I
AM TO SEE YOU!"



"DO YOU HEAR
SOMEONE YELLING?"





"ALL RIGHT, YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN!....
NOW LET ME DOWN!"

April 17, 1949

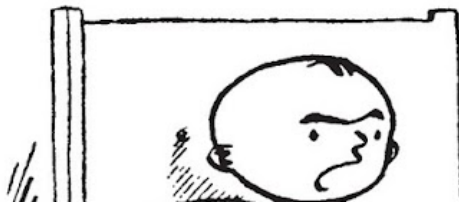
April 24, 1949

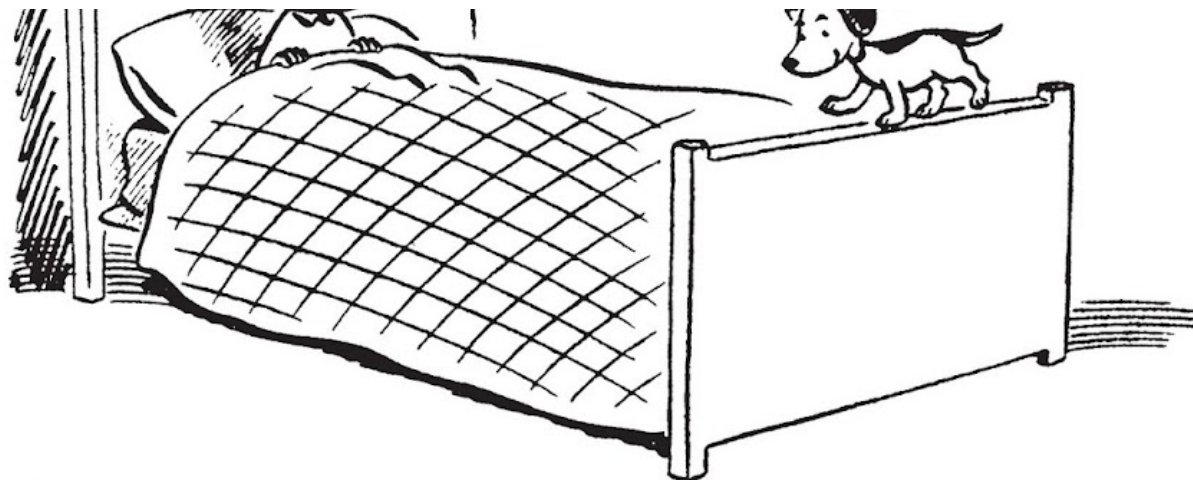
Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



" HERE'S A SWELL
MAGAZINE... WHY DON'T
YOU BUY IT ?.....THEN
I'LL BORROW IT ! "

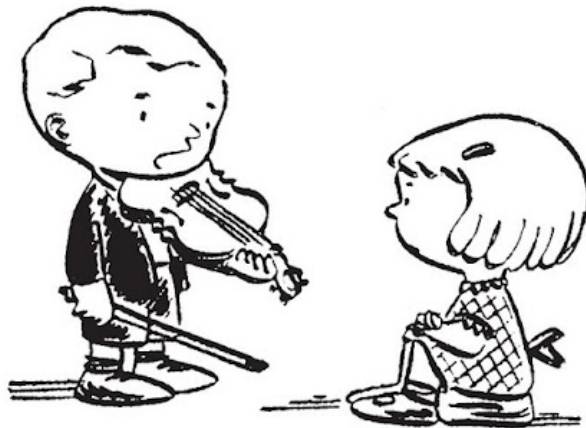




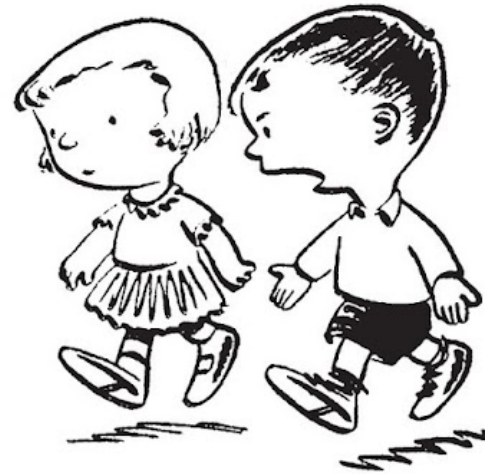
"ALL RIGHT, LET'S BREAK IT UP, AND GO TO BED!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"I HOPE BEETHOVEN
DOESN'T TAKE THIS
TOO HARD..."



"BUT THE EARTH MUST
BE GETTING SMALLER
EVERY DAY WITH
MILLIONS OF PEOPLE
WALKING ALL OVER IT,
AND WEARING IT DOWN!"





"IF THIS DRUGGIST WAS ANY KIND OF A GUY, HE'D PUT IN BENCHES!"

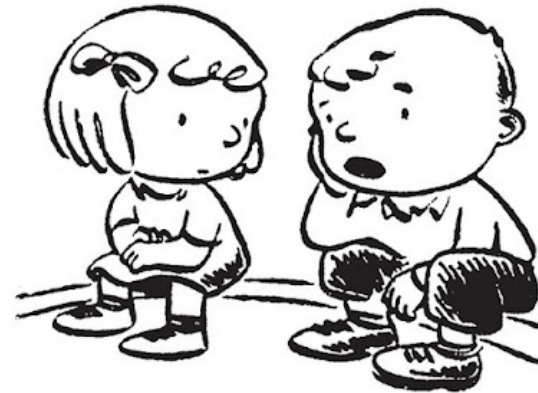
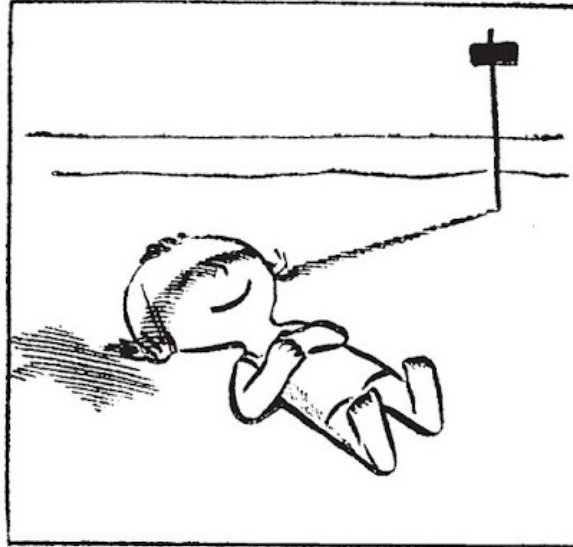
May 1, 1949

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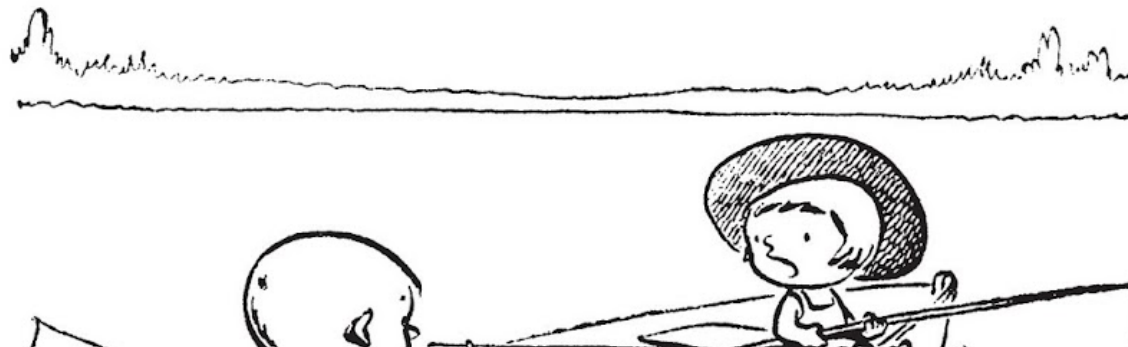
May 8, 1949

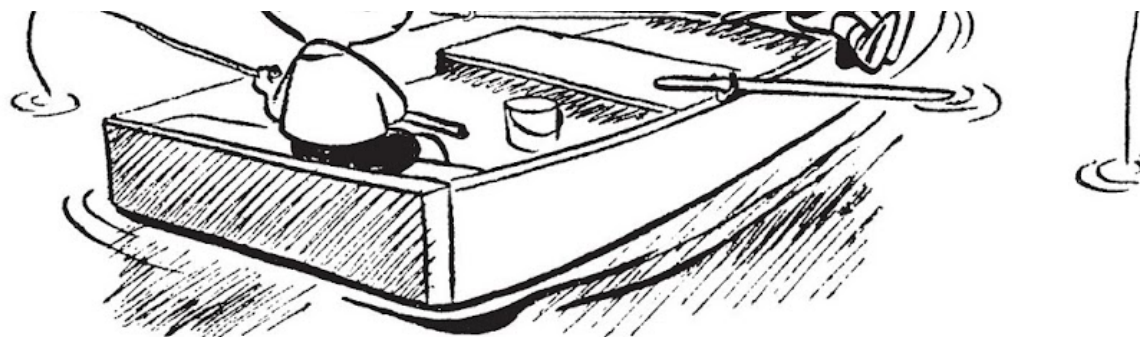
Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"IF SOMETHING EXCITING
DOESN'T HAPPEN TO ME
PRETTY SOON, I'M GOING
TO HAVE AN AWFULLY
BORING AUTOBIOGRAPHY."





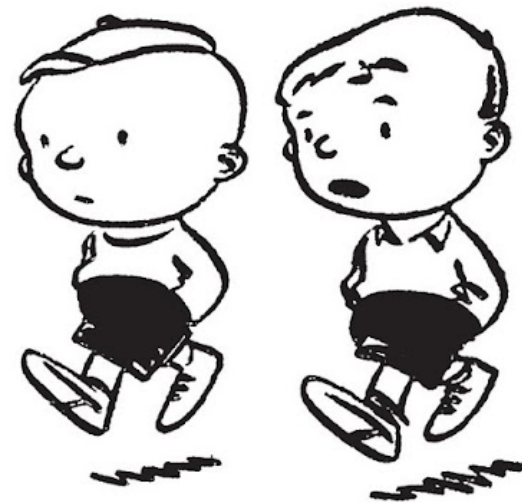
"AS SOON AS I CATCH THE LIMIT, I'LL
QUIT, AND GIVE YOU A CHANCE!"

Page 269

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Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"I WONDER IF
I'LL HAVE AS MUCH
TROUBLE WITH
WOMEN AS I NOW
HAVE WITH GIRLS."





"DON'T WORRY, IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE SOME EIGHT-
EENTH CENTURY INSTRUMENT OF TORTURE, I'LL RUN FOR HELP."

May 15, 1949

May 22, 1949

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"IF YOU REALLY WERE
MAN'S BEST FRIEND,
YOU'D GET UP, AND
LET ME SIT THERE."



"WHY DON'T YOU RELAX?
THE GAME DOESN'T START
UNTIL THIS AFTERNOON!"





"THERE HE GOES...OUT OF MY LIFE FOREVER.....I'LL
PROBABLY MISS HIM A LOT AT FIRST, BUT BY
THREE O'CLOCK I SHOULD BE OVER IT!"

Page 271

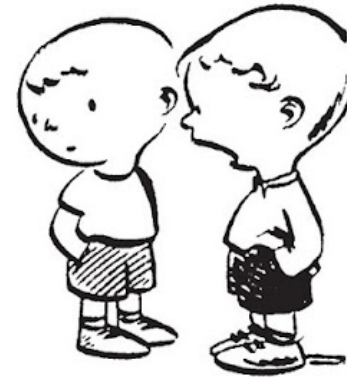
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Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"YOU'RE THE ONLY
PERSON I KNOW WHO
PLAYS SOLITAIRE WITH
A MARKED DECK!"



" HERE COMES GOOD
OLD CHARLIE BROWN!
HOW I HATE HIM!!"





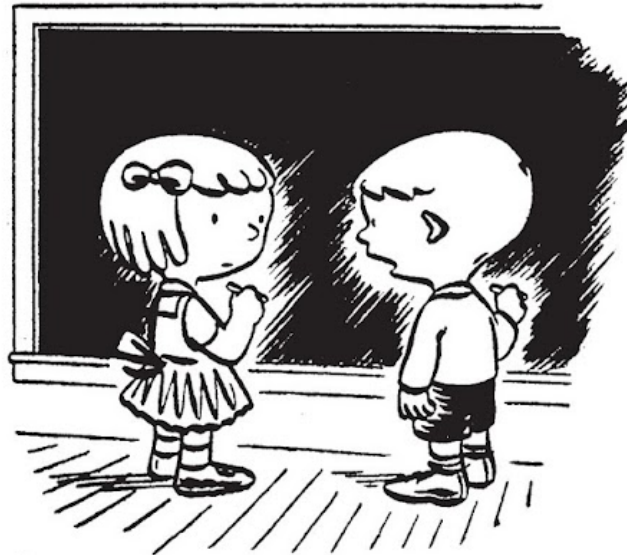
" TRY TO BE MORE PATIENT.... IF WE'RE SHORT
OF HOOPS, WE'RE SHORT OF HOOPS! "

May 29, 1949

June 5, 1949

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

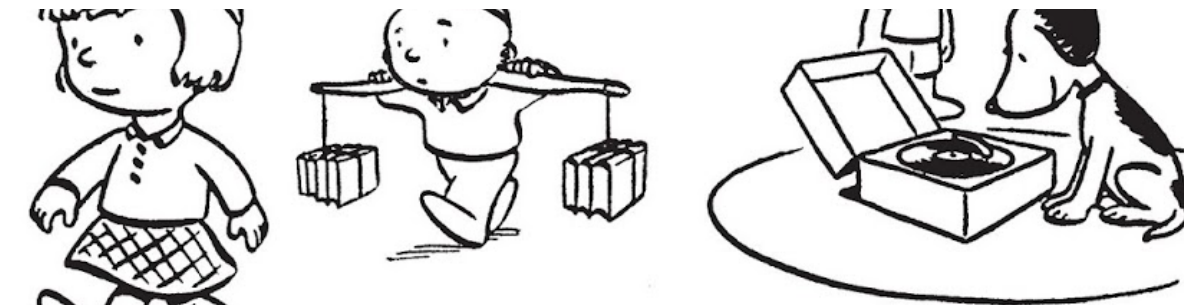


"I FIND IT HARD TO
CONCENTRATE IN SUCH
TURBULENT TIMES..."



"YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY REALIZE
HOW GLAD I'LL BE WHEN WE
GET THAT NEW LAMP!"

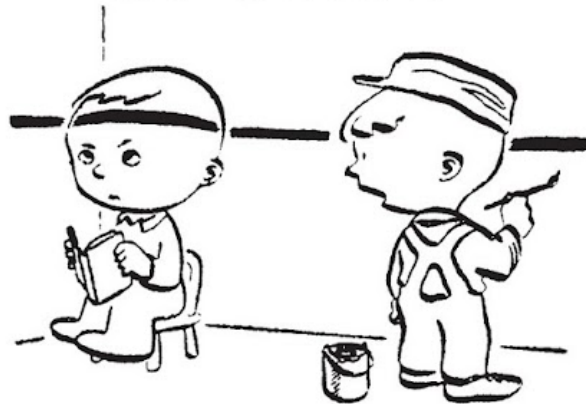




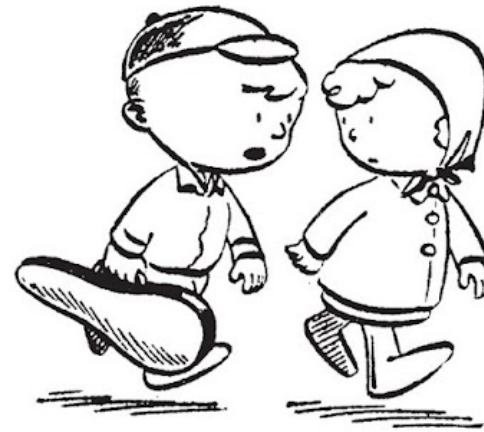
"IT WOULD SERVE YOU
RIGHT IF BEETHOVEN
DROVE ME CRAZY!"

Li'l Folks

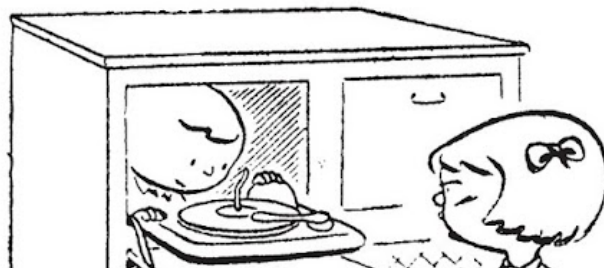
BY SPARKY

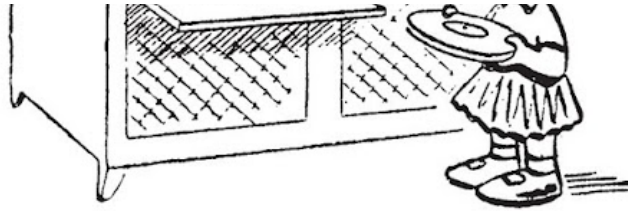


"OH, I'M SORRY.. YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING!"

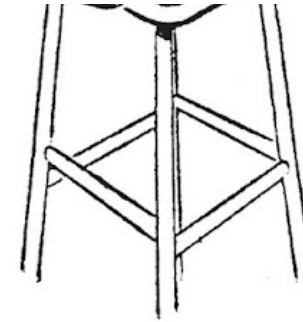


"MOZART AND I HAVE BEEN HAVING QUITE A TIME."





"SOMETIMES I WISH YOU
WERENT SO INTERESTED
IN THE MECHANICAL
SIDE OF THINGS!"



"MAKE THAT TWO
GLASSES OF MILK..
I HAVE A GUEST."

June 12, 1949

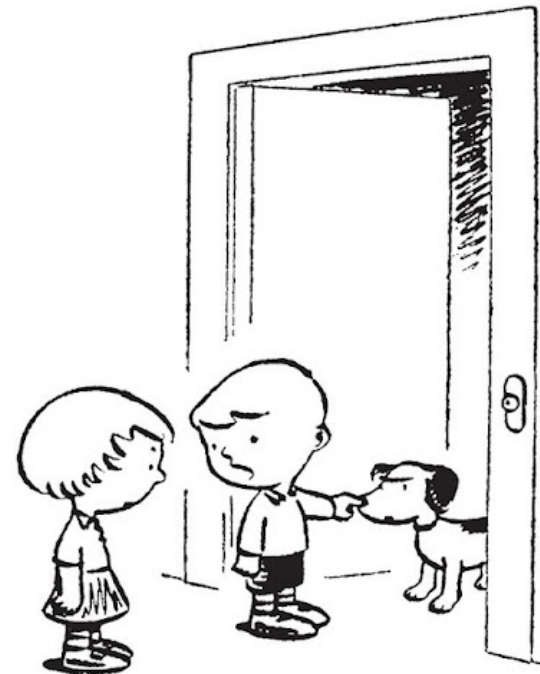
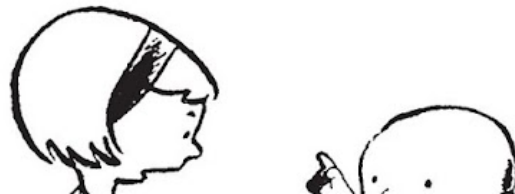
June 19, 1949

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

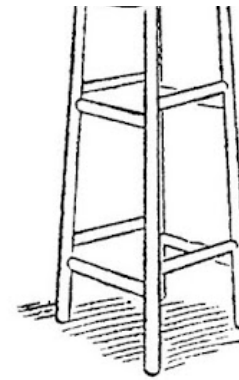


"WHAT DO REAL
MOMMAS AND POPPAS
DO WHEN THEY GET TIRED
OF PLAYING HOUSE?"



"STILL NO ANSWER.....
PROBABLY NO ONE HOME!"





"TEN MINUTES TO THREE?
ALL RIGHT, THANK YOU."

"MENU, PLEASE!"

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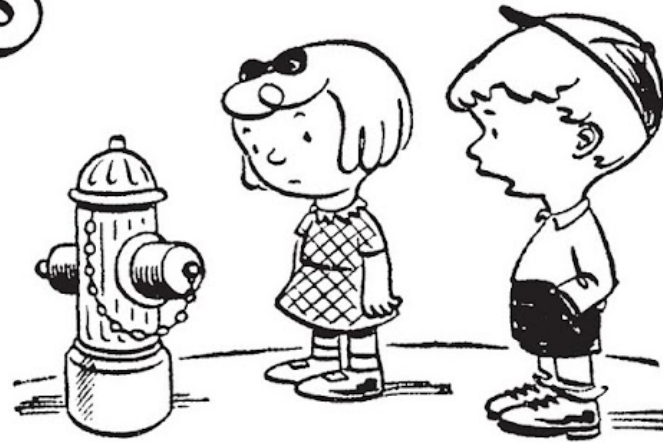
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Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

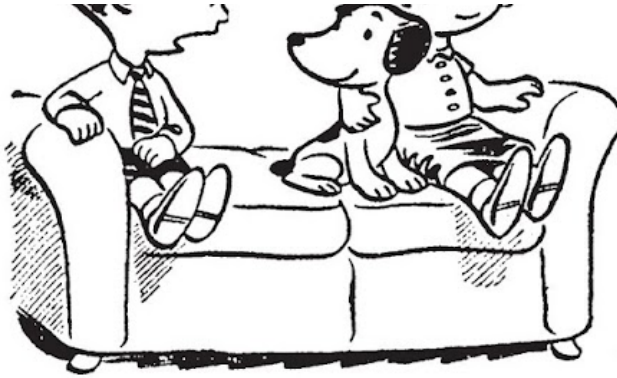


"WHAT DO YOU MEAN,
'IS THE HEAD OF THE
HOUSEHOLD IN ?...' WHO
DO YOU THINK I AM?"



"I'M ALWAYS AMAZED AT HOW
THEY MANAGE TO GET SO
MUCH WATER OUT OF SUCH
A SMALL OBJECT!"





"MAN'S BEST FRIEND!...
THAT'S A LAUGH!!"

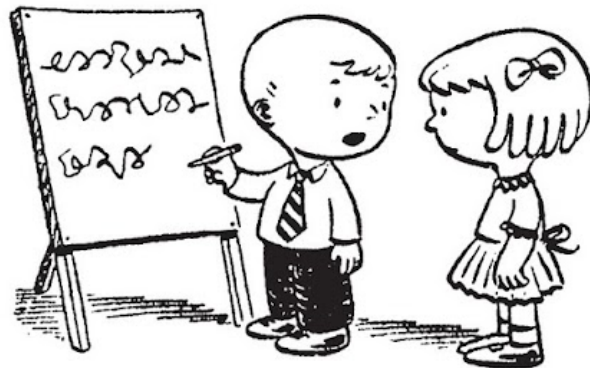
June 26, 1949



July 3, 1949

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"HOW MANY 'E'S'
IN 'ELIZABETH'?"



"I'VE BEEN NOTICING
LATELY THAT EVERYTIME
THE SUN GOES DOWN IT
GETS DARK OUTSIDE!"





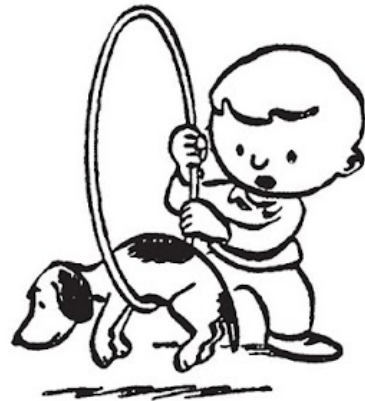
"I DON'T UNDERSTAND....
RIGHT NOW YOU FRIGHTEN
ME... TEN YEARS FROM
NOW YOU'LL PROBABLY
FASCINATE ME!"



"DO YOU WANT ME TO
SCRUB YOUR BACK?"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



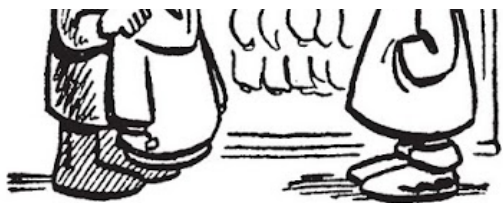
"NICE TRY!"



"AFTER YOU GET TO BE AS OLD AS I AM, YOU'LL SEE THINGS IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT."



July 10, 1949



"WHAT COLOR DO
YOU SUPPOSE WOULD
GO WELL WITH AN
OVERCAST SKY?"



"IF I HAD KNOWN THAT
YOU WERE COMING, I'D
HAVE BAKED A MUD-PIE!"

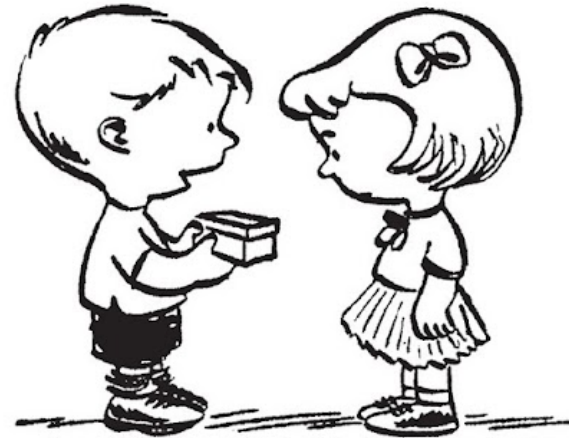
July 17, 1949

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"DOES MAN'S BEST FRIEND HAVE ANY LOVE TO SPARE FOR A VERY LONESOME YOUNG LADY?"



"I'M TRYING TO SAVE UP ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY A PIGGY BANK!"





"I LIKE TO SEE A YOUNG MAN WORKING....IT'S A SIGN
THAT HE'S AMBITIOUS, AND THEREFORE WILL
SOMEDAY MAKE A GOOD HUSBAND!"

Li'l Folks

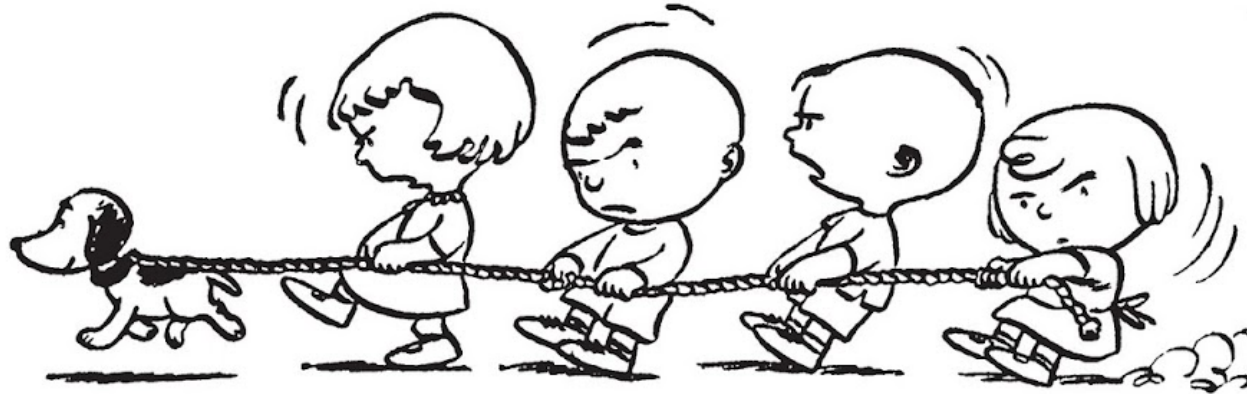
BY SPARKY



"I DREAD THE DAY
WHEN I HAVE TO MEET
BEETHOVEN FACE TO FACE."



" BROWN ? WHY, NO..... WHAT MAKES YOU
THINK I'VE SEEN CHARLIE BROWN ? "

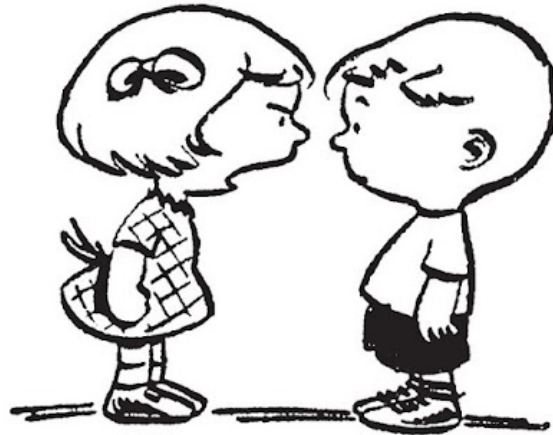


July 24, 1949

July 31, 1949

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"YOU'D BETTER TREAT ME
WITH MORE RESPECT.....
SOMEDAY I MAY BE
SOMEBODY'S MOTHER!"



"OF COURSE WE'RE
PROUD OF GRANDMA....
DOESN'T SHE LEAD
THE LEAGUE IN
STOLEN BASES ?!"

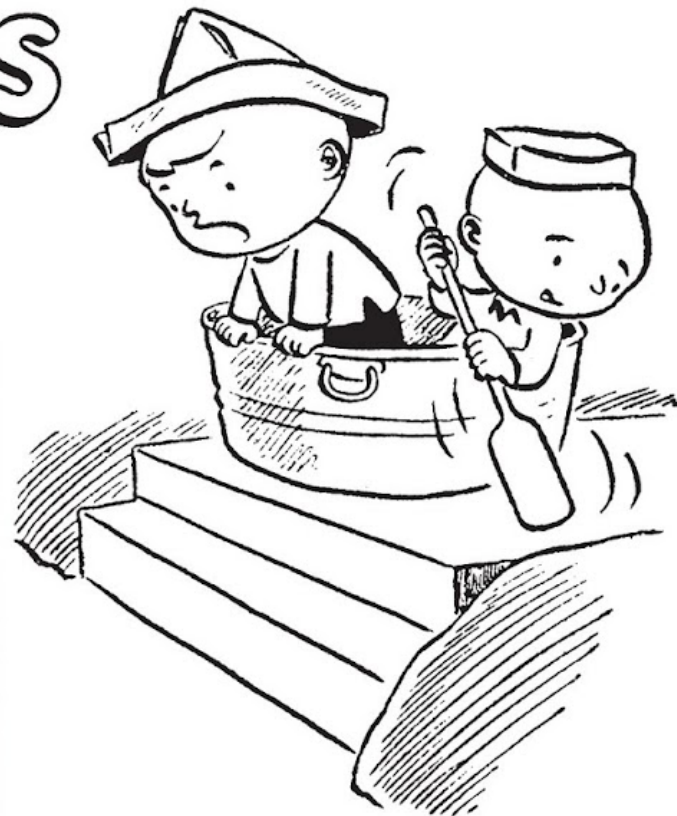




" WHY CAN'T HE FACE THE FACTS ? IF THERE'S
NO TOWEL, THERE'S NO TOWEL !! "

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY





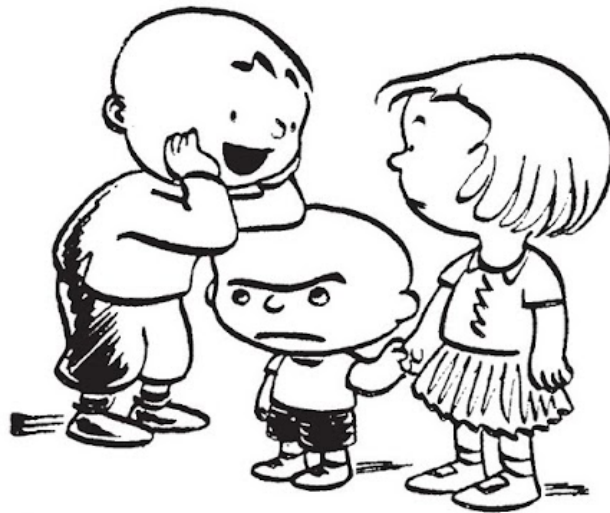
"DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL KNOW IT'S HER
WHEN I PUT HER NAME ON THE BOTTOM!"

August 7, 1949

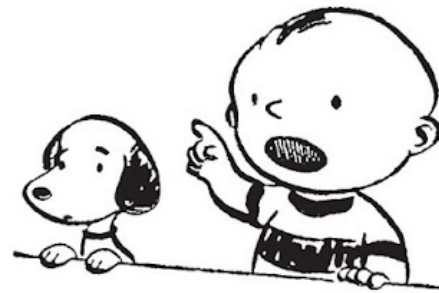
August 14, 1949

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"HELLO THERE, CUTIE...
HOW ABOUT YOU AND
ME STEPPING OUT?"



"ONE BOTTLE OF
STRAWBERRY, PLEASE
AND KINDLY IGNORE
ANY SIGHS WHICH
YOU MAY HEAR!"

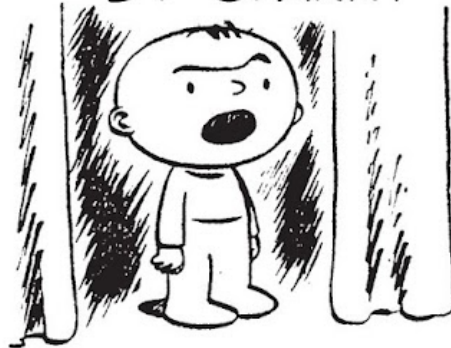




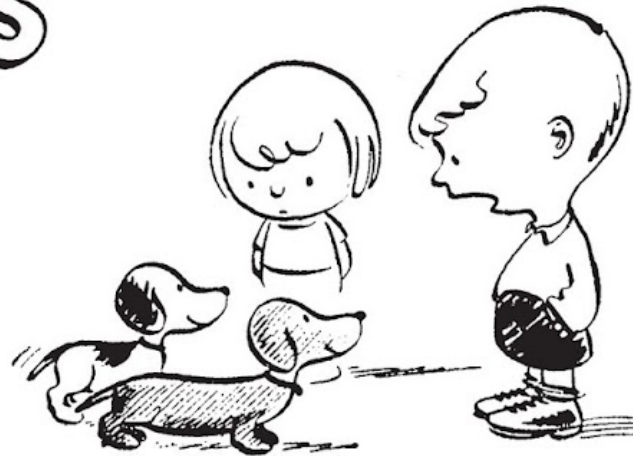
"THIS IS WHAT I DON'T LIKE ABOUT PLAYING HOUSE.....
SOMETIMES YOU GET DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO REALISM!"

Li'l Folks

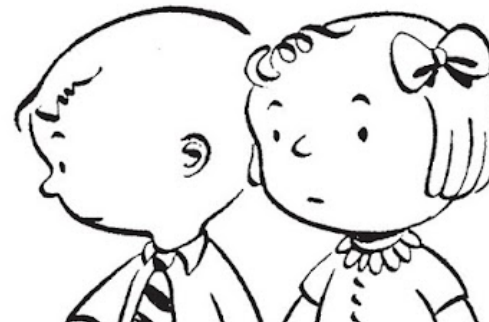
BY SPARKY

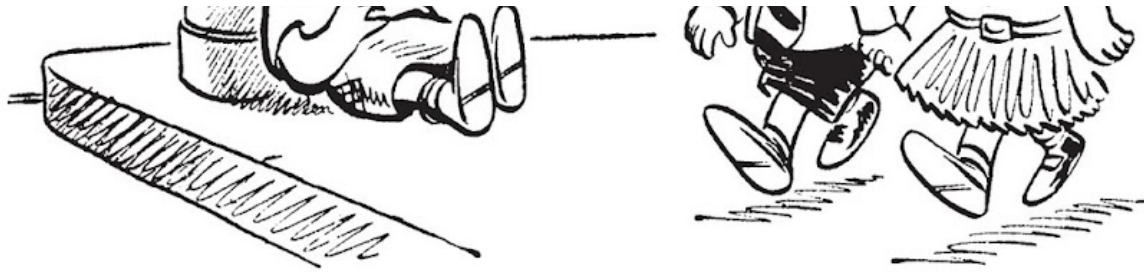


"HOW OLD DO I HAVE TO BE BEFORE I CAN STAY UP LATE ENOUGH TO BE TOO TIRED TO GET UP IN THE MORNING?"



"IT'S DIFFICULT TO SAY WHICH YOU PREFER WITHOUT SHOWING RACIAL PREJUDICE!"





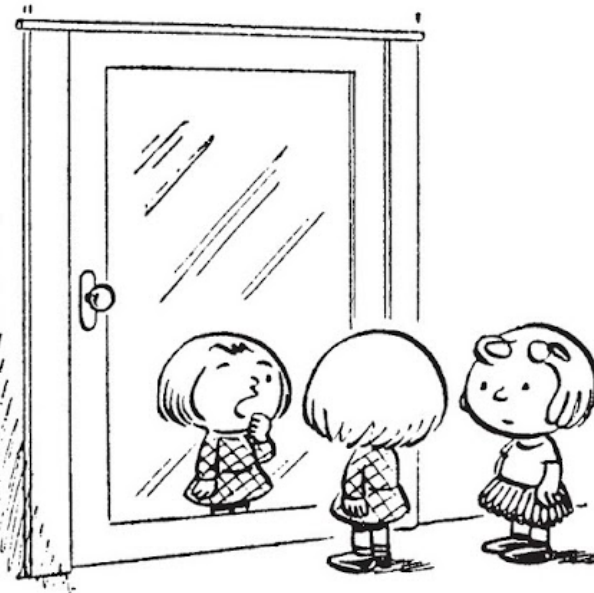
"FORTUNATELY, REAL BEAUTY IS
SOMETHING THAT LIES WITHIN!"

August 21, 1949

August 28, 1949

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"MY BUDDY AND I LIKE TO
THINK OF OURSELVES AS BEING
SUCCESSFUL PRODUCTS OF THIS
NEW POST-WAR WORLD!"

"I HATE THE THOUGHT
THAT HALF OF MY LIFE
PROBABLY WILL BE SPENT
IN FRONT OF A MIRROR!"





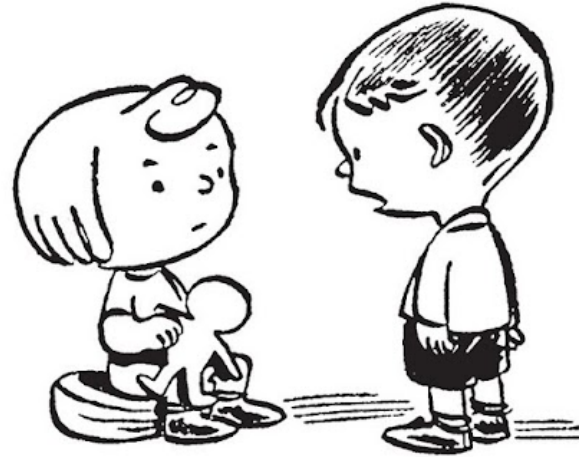
"AM I RIGHT IN ASSUMING THAT TOMORROW
IS THE DAY OF THE BIG GAME ? "

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"THE TROUBLE WITH YOU IS THAT YOUR EYES ARE BIGGER THAN YOUR STOMACH!"



"I'VE BEEN WAITING ALL DAY TO TELL YOU SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT, BUT I'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT IT WAS."





September 4, 1949

"ONE HUNDRED AND ONE, ONE HUNDRED AND TWO...YOU REALIZE,
OF COURSE, THAT HE'S MAKING FOOLS OUT OF BOTH OF US!"

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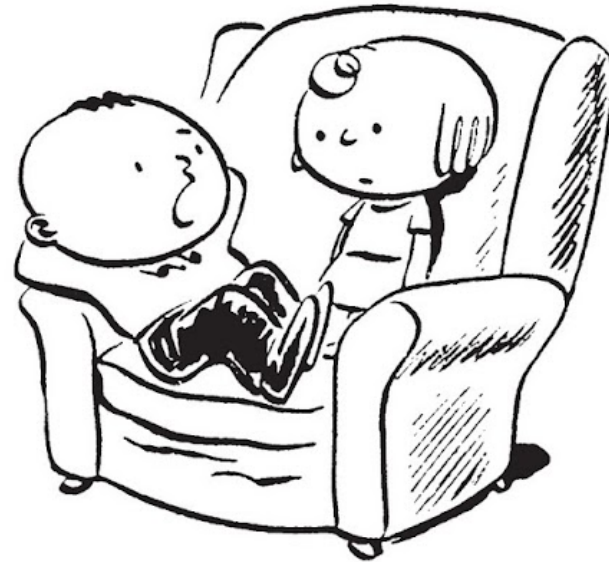
September 11, 1949

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

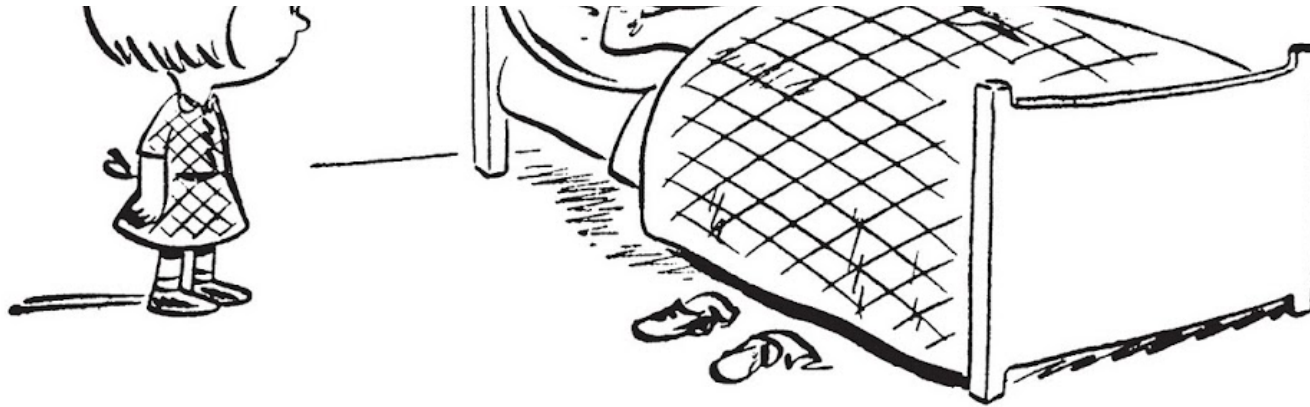


"I SUPPOSE THERE'S NOT MUCH SENSE IN YOU WASHING YOUR HANDS IF YOU'VE GOT TO WALK ON 'EM RIGHT AWAY AGAIN!"



"WHEN YOU GET TO BE MY AGE, YOU FEEL THAT THE WORLD IS SORT OF CLOSING IN ON YOU..."





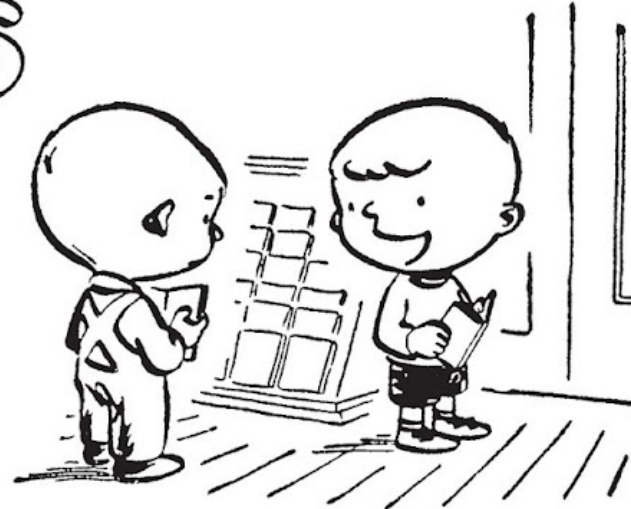
" WHEN YOU GO BACK DOWNSTAIRS, ASK MOM
WHAT THE ODDS WOULD BE ON MY FINISHING
SCHOOL BY CORRESPONDENCE ! "

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

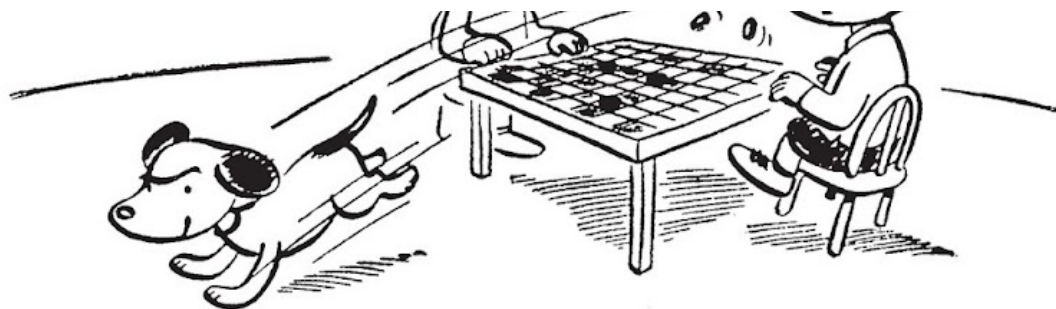


"I THINK THAT I'M BEING
STIFLED BY SOME IMPERCEPTIBLE
FLAW IN OUR EDUCATIONAL
SYSTEM!"



"LET'S BUY THIS
ONE... I FOUND A
BAD WORD IN IT!"





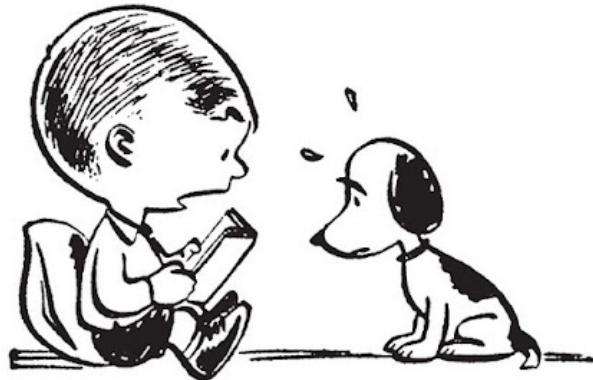
" IT'S ALMOST SADISTIC THE WAY HE
DOES THAT !! "

September 18, 1949

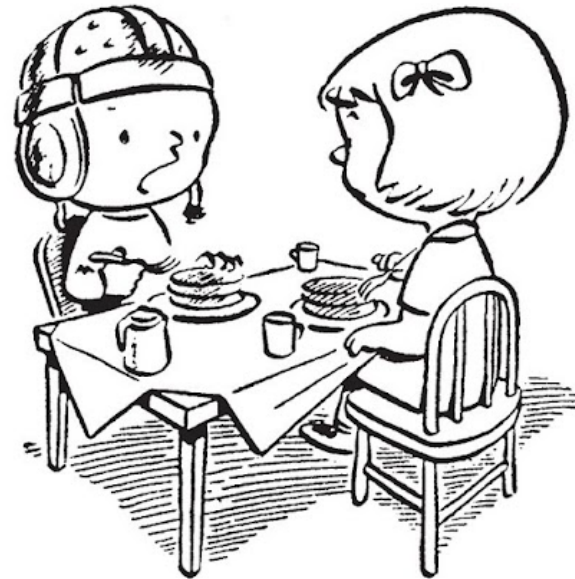
September 25, 1949

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

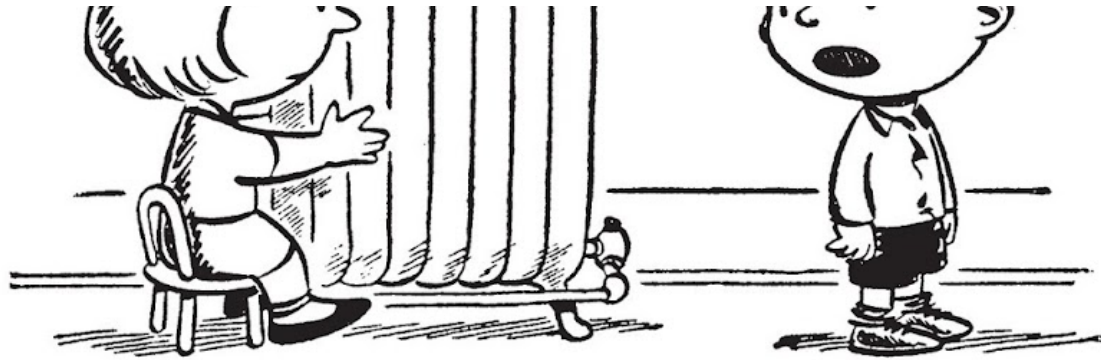


" IF ALBERT PAYSON
TERHUNE IS GOING TO
AFFECT YOU THIS WAY,
WE'D BETTER READ
SOMETHING ELSE ! "



" DO YOU THINK MOM WOULD BE
INSULTED IF I SAVED A
COUPLE OF THESE PANCAKES
FOR SHOULDER-PADS ? "





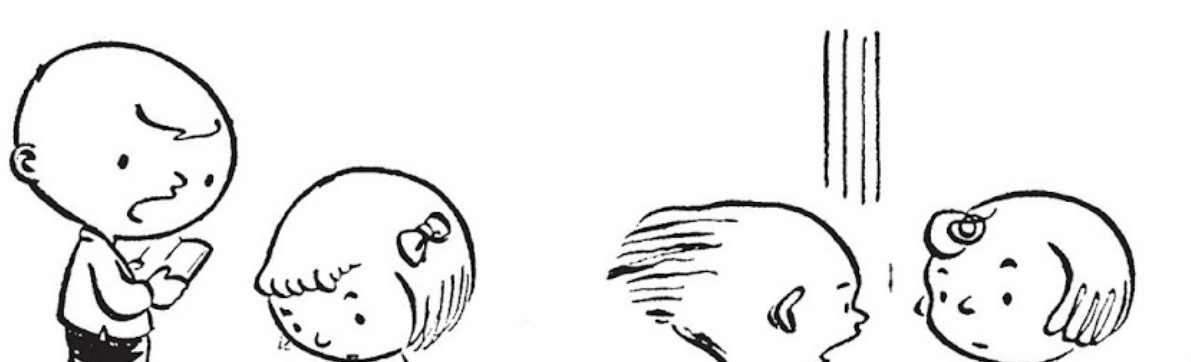
" THEN AGAIN IF YOU EVER DID GET A REAL
HARP, YOU'D PROBABLY DRIVE US ALL CRAZY WITH IT."

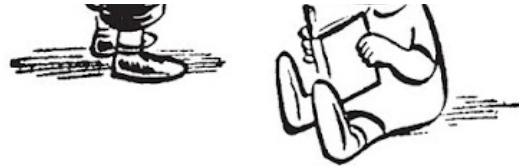
Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"THERE SITS A STRANGE COMBINATION...A DOG AND A GIRL....MAN'S BEST FRIEND AND MAN'S BIGGEST PROBLEM!"





"THE ANSWER IS ON
PAGE SIX UNLESS, OF
COURSE, YOU'RE HOLDING
THE BOOK UPSIDE DOWN!"



"SORRY I'M LATE...
I RAN ALL THE
WAY!"

October 2, 1949

October 9, 1949

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"TESTING..... ONE,
TWO.....WHAT COMES
AFTER TWO?"

REMEMBER, WE'LL HAVE ONLY
THREE MINUTES TO CHANGE
OUTFITS BEFORE THE NEXT
PROGRAM BEGINS!"





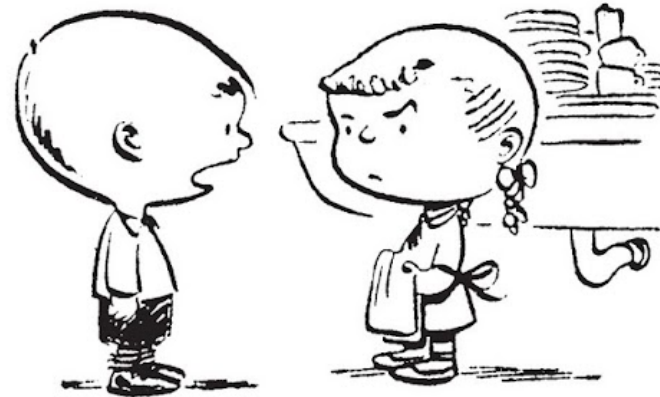
"WE WON'T GET ANYPLACE ON THIS ROAD....IT COMES TO A POINT!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"YOU DON'T KNOW HOW CLOSE
YOU ARE TO BEING EATEN ! "



"LET'S PLAY HOUSE...
YOU WASH THE DISHES
WHILE I RELAX IN THE
LIVING ROOM ALL WEARY
FROM A DAY'S WORK ! "





October 16, 1949

"I ONCE HAD TWO BOY FRIENDS, BUT I PLAYED ONE AGAINST THE OTHER UNTIL I LOST THEM BOTH!"

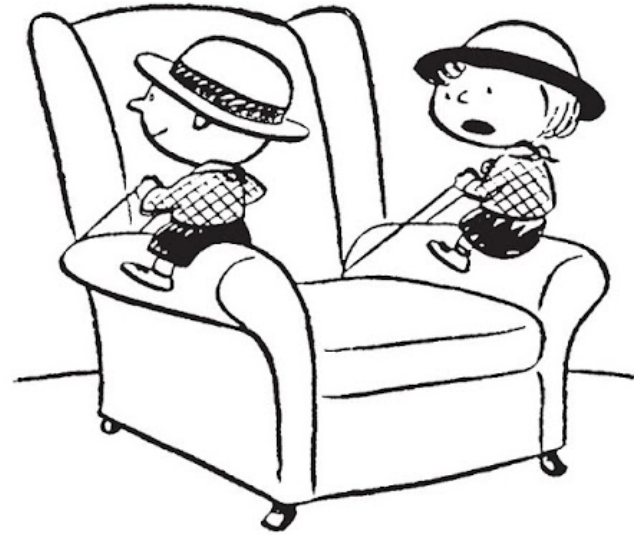
October 23, 1949

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

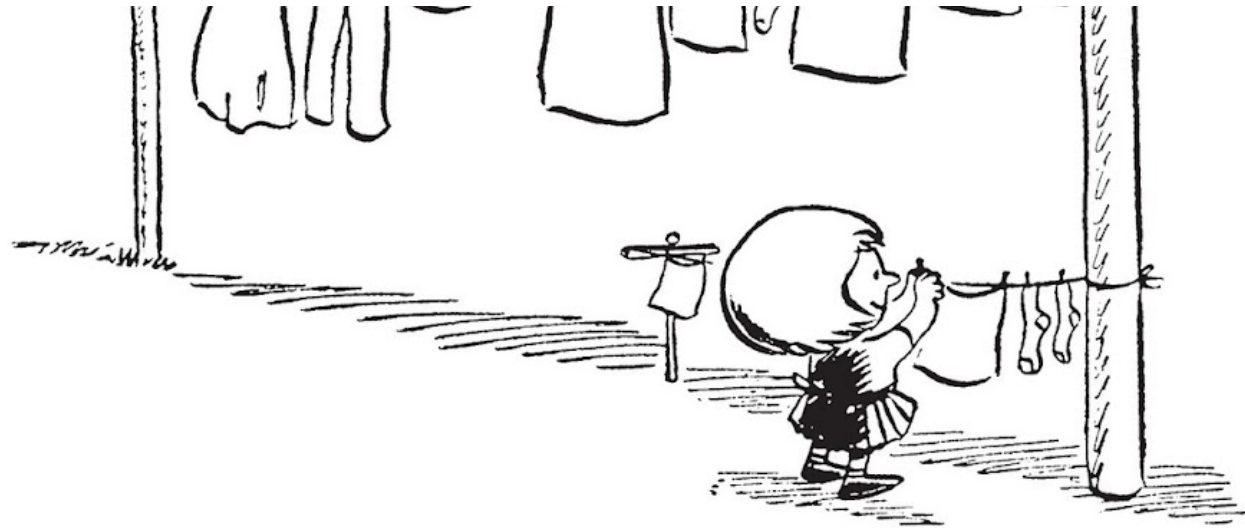


"IT TURNED OUT TO BE ONLY DIRT, BUT FOR ONE BRIEF EXCITING MOMENT I THOUGHT I NEEDED A SHAVE !!"



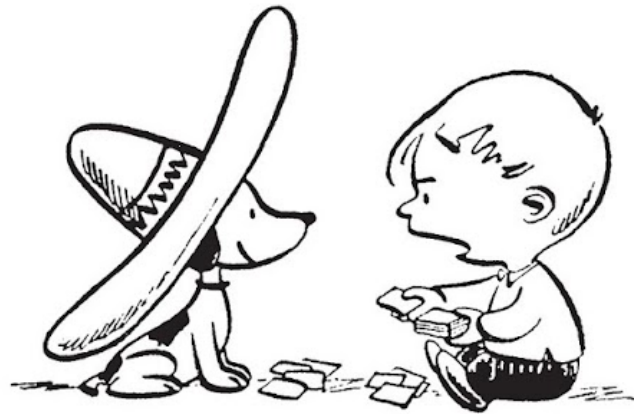
"NO FANCY RIDING NOW, PLEASE..... IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO..."





Li'l Folks

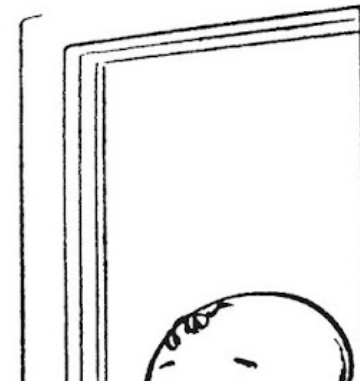
BY SPARKY



"YOU KNOW IT REALLY
ISN'T NECESSARY TO
WEAR A HAT LIKE THAT
TO PLAY 'CANASTA'!"



"THE TROUBLE WITH
OUR GENERATION IS
THAT WE'RE ALL
TOO YOUNG!"





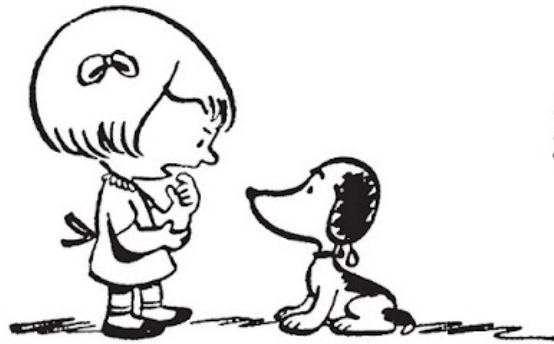
October 30, 1949

" SO I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO BE GOING...I SAID I HATE TO SPOIL ALL THE FUN, BUT I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO BE GOING! "

November 6, 1949

Li'l Folks

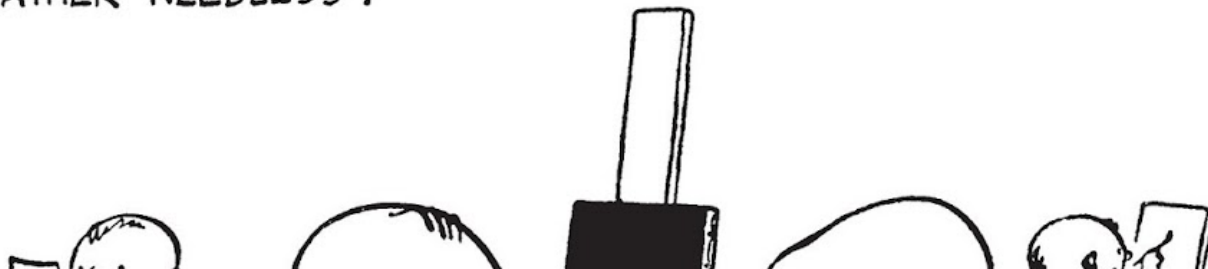
BY SPARKY

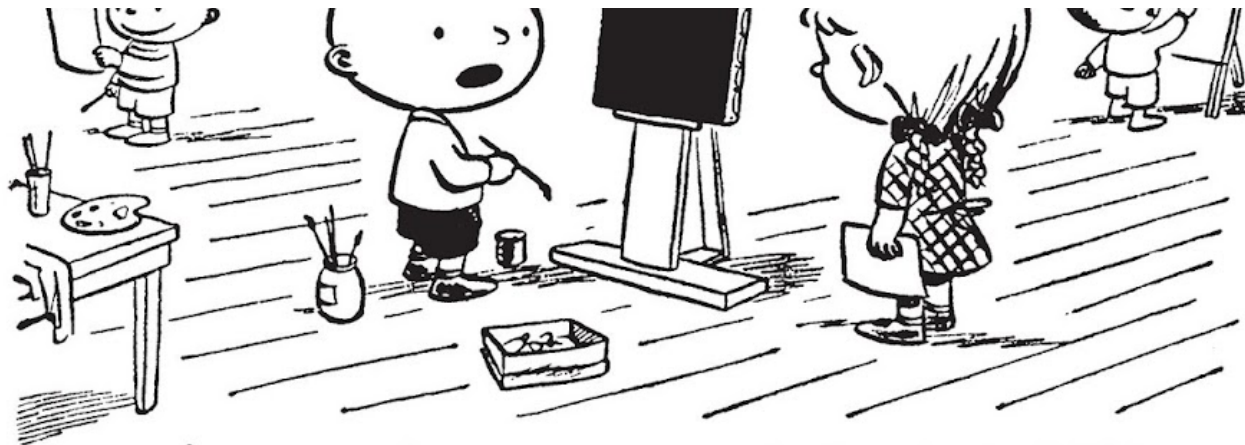


"HMM...MAYBE I WAS
WRONG.... IN YOUR CASE
EAR-RINGS DO SEEM
RATHER NEEDLESS!"



"YOU CERTAINLY LOOK
SWELL IN BLACK!"





"WHAT I'M STRIVING FOR IS A REAL
FEELING OF DARKNESS !"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

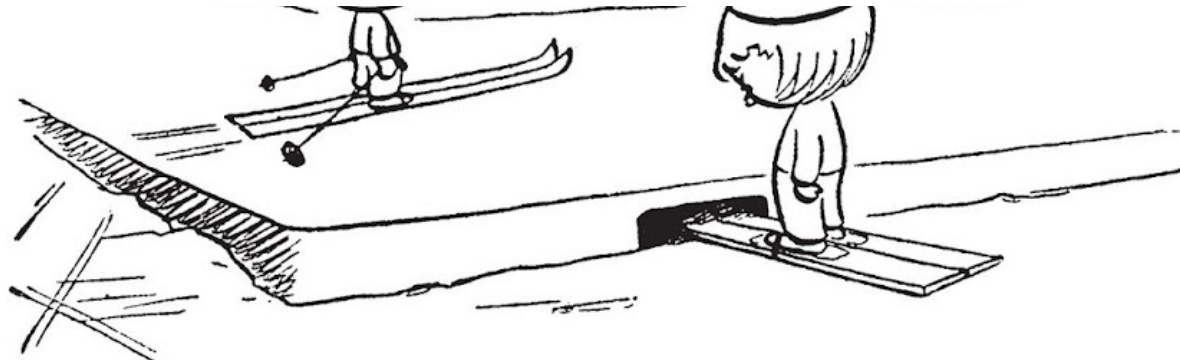


"HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT!?
ANOTHER REJECTION SLIP
FROM THE 'CHILDREN'S BED-
TIME STORIES' MAGAZINE!"



"I'LL NEVER MAKE IT TO
SCHOOL THROUGH THIS BLIZZARD,
BUT I'M SURE I COULD FIGHT
MY WAY DOWN TO THE MOVIE!"





"DON'T BECOME DISCOURAGED.... WHEN WE GET OUT IN THE COUNTRY, THE GOING WILL BE MUCH EASIER !"

November 13, 1949

November 20, 1949

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"THERE'S ONE THING
ABOUT BEETHOVEN
THAT CONFUSES
ME.....HIS MUSIC !!"

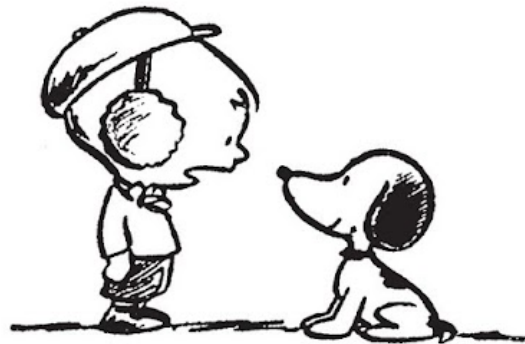




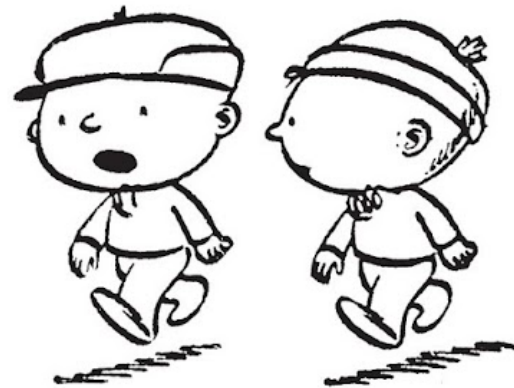
"COULD YOU SPARE A WEARY TRAVELER A BITE TO EAT, MA'AM?
I'VE JUST RIDDEN IN ALL THE WAY FROM THE LIVING-ROOM!"

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"BUILT IN EAR-MUFFS,
EH? THAT MUST BE
RATHER CONVENIENT!"



"I DISTINCTLY HEARD
GRANDMA SAY THAT SHE'S
GOING TO USE HER WHOLE
PENSION CHECK THIS
MONTH TO GET A NEW
PAIR OF HOCKEY SKATES."



$$\begin{array}{r} +2 \\ -1/2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ +6 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 14 \\ 23 \\ - \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ 3 \\ - \\ \hline \end{array}$$

"SEVEN AND SIX MUST BE THIRTEEN....I SAW IT ON THE SPORTS PAGE THIS MORNING!"

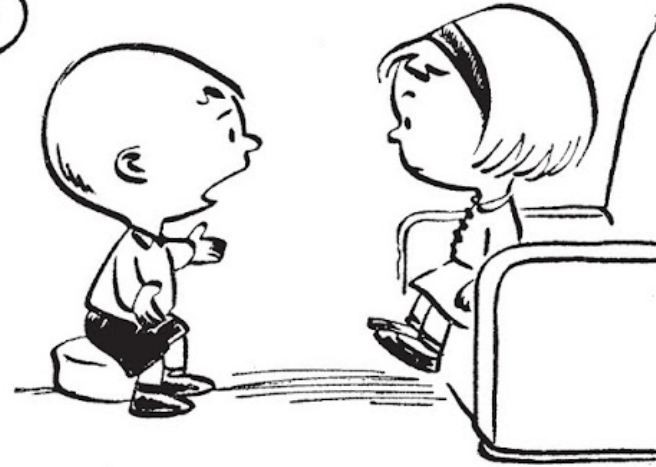
December 4, 1949

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"A TOAST !!...."



"I AM ENTHRALLED BY YOUR
GREAT BEAUTY, FASCINATED BY
YOUR SPARKLING PERSONALITY,
AND INTRIGUED BY YOUR
AMAZING COLLECTION OF
COMIC BOOKS!"





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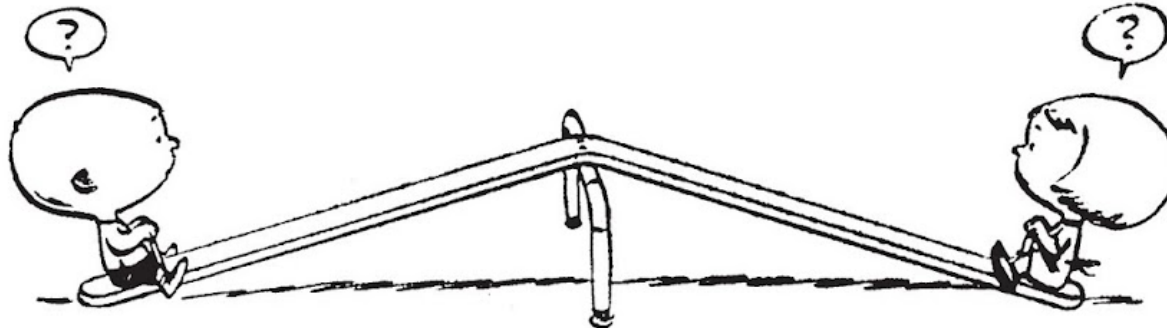
"SEE? WE CAN HAVE ANOTHER GAME ON THE SIDE WHILE SHE'S TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO PLAY ! "

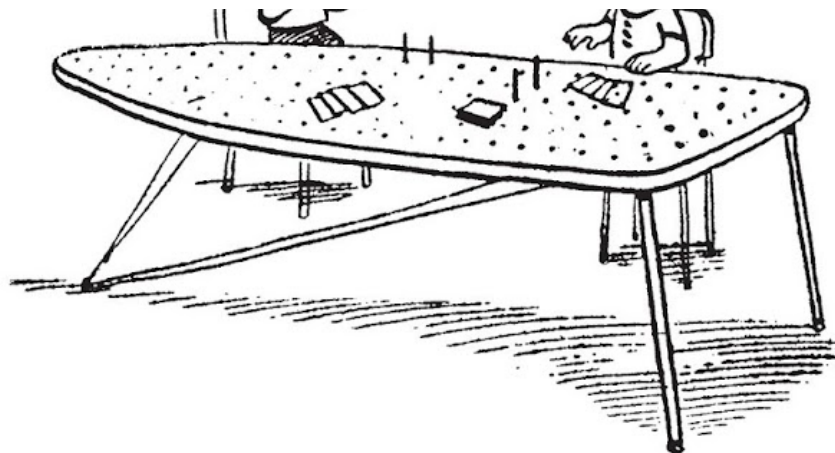
Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"I DREAMED ABOUT YOU LAST NIGHT... GUESS I'M GOING TO HAVE TO QUIT EATING JUST BEFORE GOING TO BED ! "





"FIFTEEN SIX, FIFTEEN EIGHT, AND THREE IS....."

December 11, 1949

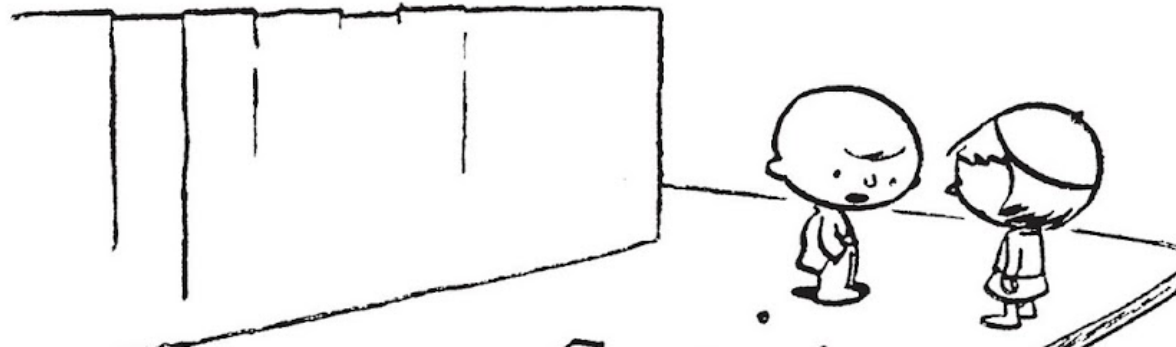
December 18, 1949

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS
SUDDEN DESIRE FOR REALISM!"





"WELL, WHAT DO Y'KNOW?..... I'VE GOT A
HOLE IN MY POCKET !! "

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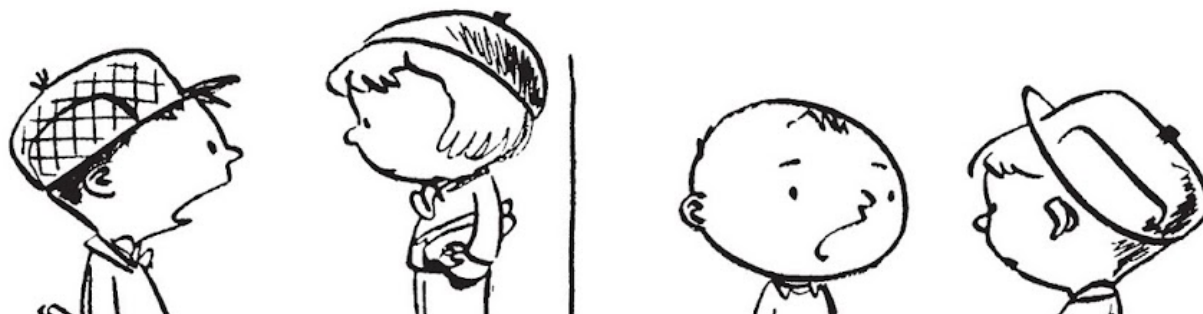
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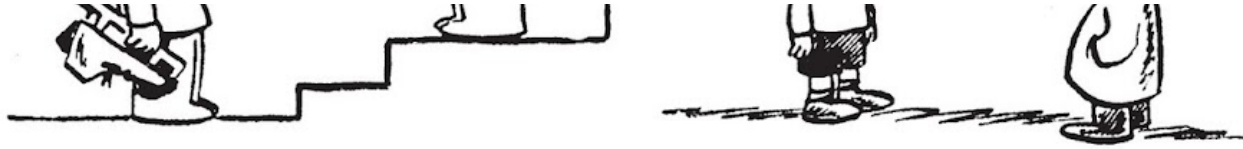
Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



WHAT'S THE DATE TODAY ? "





"BEING WITH YOU TODAY
HAS DONE ME A LOT OF
GOOD....IT'S MADE ME
FEEL YEARS YOUNGER!"

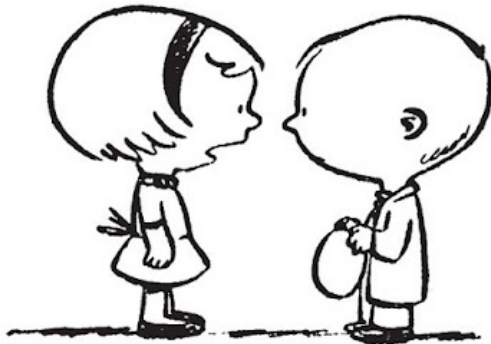
"I'D BE GLAD TO LOAN
YOU MY FLASHLIGHT, BUT
IT'S IN THE ATTIC, AND
IT'S SO DARK UP THERE
I CAN'T FIND IT!"

December 25, 1949

January 1, 1950

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



"ALL RIGHT, IT'S SETTLED THEN... AS SOON AS YOU FINISH COLLEGE, WE'LL BE MARRIED.... HOW LONG WILL IT BE BEFORE YOU BEGIN KINDERGARDEN?"



"I WISH GRANDMA WOULD HAVE MADE AT LEAST ONE GOAL... NOW SHE'LL BE CRABBY FOR THE REST OF THE WEEK!"





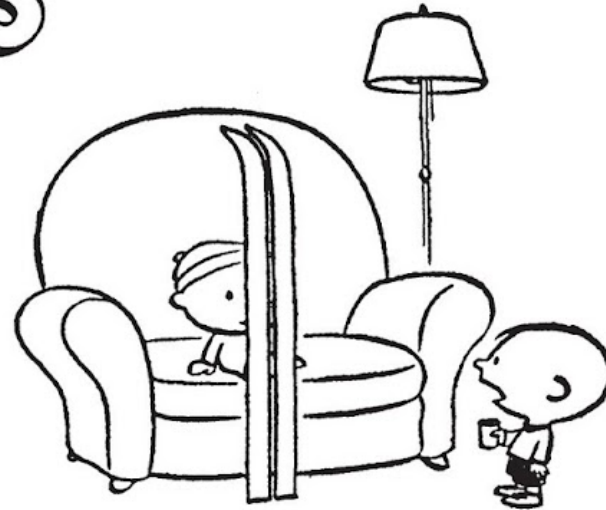
"DON'T GET DISCOURAGED..... LOTS OF SCULPTORS HAVE BEEN FAILURES WITH THEIR FIRST ONE-MAN SHOWS..."

Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY

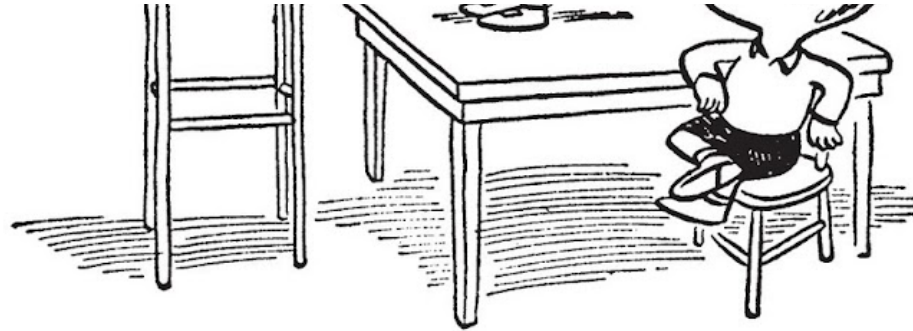


"WOW! THAT'S THE THIRD PENALTY THEY'VE GIVEN GRANDMA FOR UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS!"



"JUST MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME... I'LL BE WITH YOU AS SOON AS I FINISH EATING."





"STOP SAYING, 'THERE'S MANY A SLIP BETWEEN
THE CUP AND THE LIP!'"

January 8, 1950

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January 15, 1950

Li'l Folks

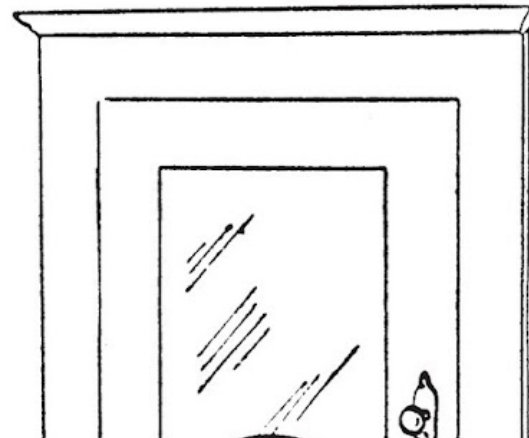
BY SPARKY

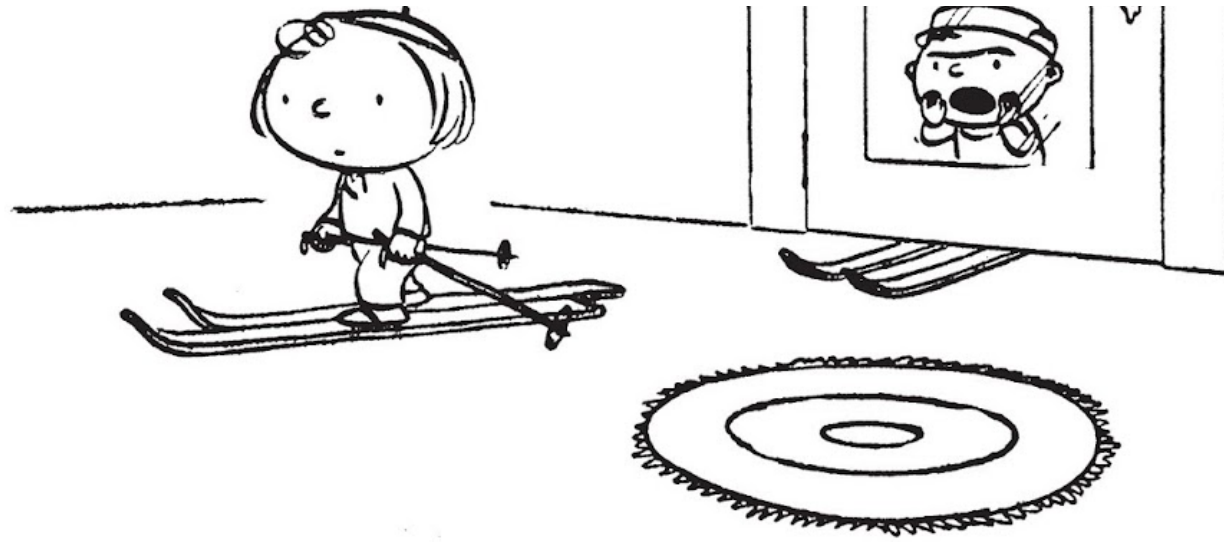


"RUBBERS ALWAYS LAST
ME TWICE AS LONG AS
THEY DO MOST PEOPLE
BECAUSE I FORGET TO WEAR
THEM HALF THE TIME!"



"DON'T WORRY...IT'S
NON-BREAKABLE!"





Li'l Folks

BY SPARKY



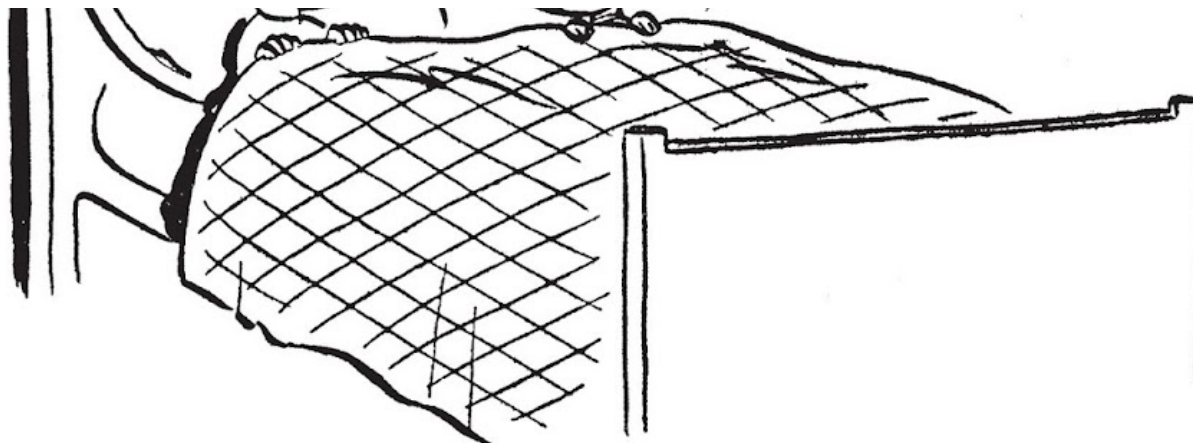
"GRANDMA IS ACTUALLY THINKING OF GETTING A LONG-PLAYING ATTACHMENT FOR IT!"



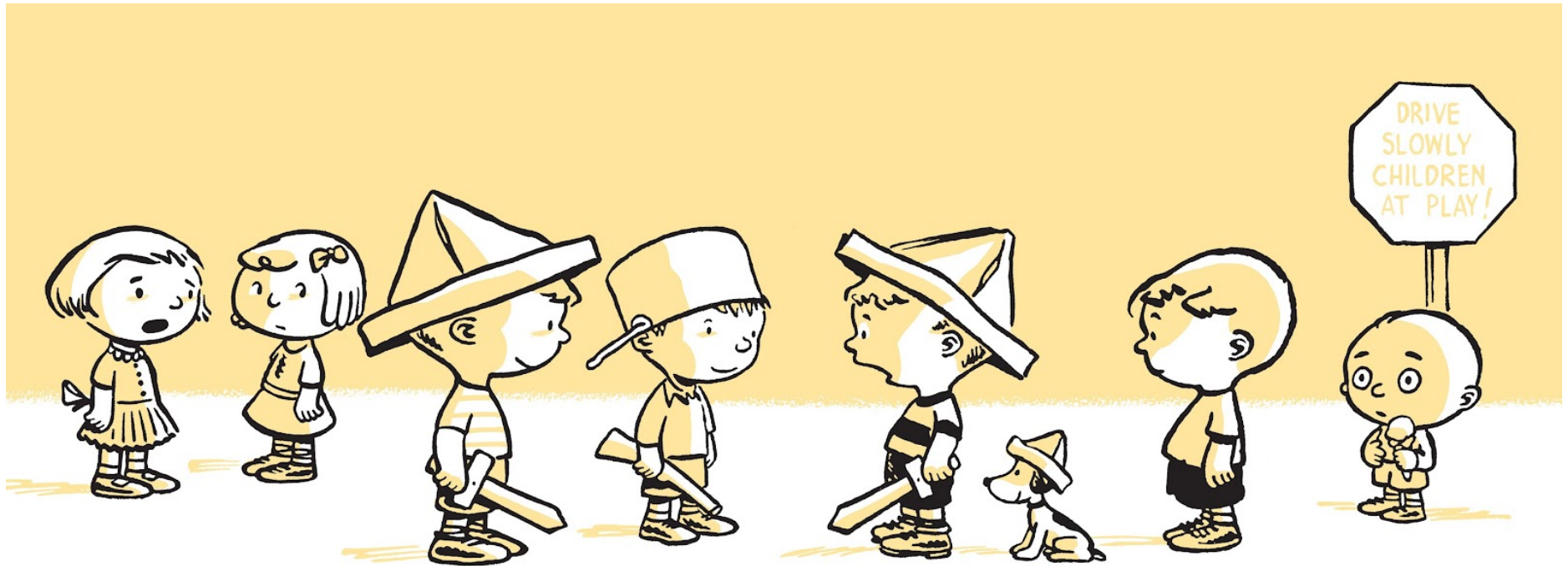
"LITTLE JIMMIE SLID CLEAR TO THE EDGE OF THE WORLD, AND FELL RIGHT OVER!"

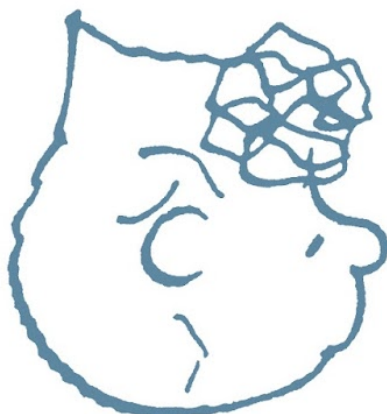


January 22, 1950



" REMEMBER NOW...NO MORE OF THIS TURNING OFF
THE ALARM, AND GOING BACK TO SLEEP! "





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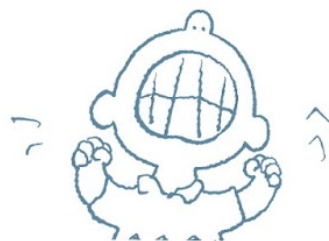
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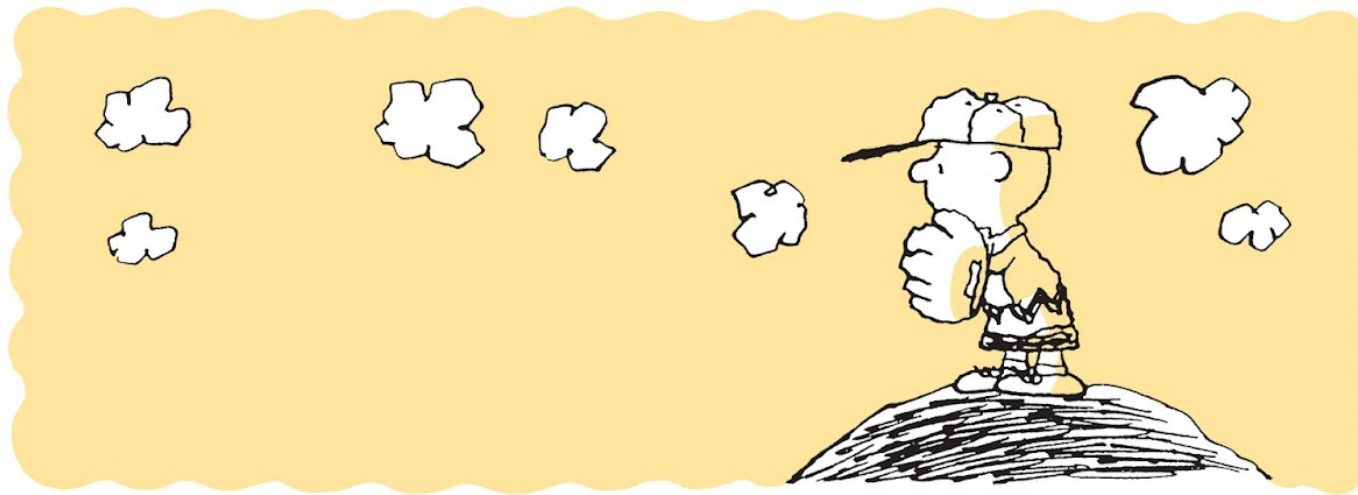
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Charlie Brown, Snoopy,
Linus, Lucy...how can I ever
forget them....

Charles M. Schulz





CHARLES M. SCHULZ • 1922 to 2000

Charles M. Schulz was born November 26, 1922, in Minneapolis. His destiny was foreshadowed when an uncle gave him, at the age of two days, the nickname “Sparky” (after the racehorse Spark Plug in the newspaper strip *Barney Google*).

Schulz grew up in St. Paul. By all accounts, he led an unremarkable, albeit sheltered, childhood. He was an only child, close to both parents. His eventual career path was nurtured by his father, who bought four Sunday papers every week — just for the comics.

An outstanding student, he skipped two grades early on, but began to flounder in high school — perhaps not so coincidentally at the same time kids are going through their cruelest, most status-conscious

period of socialization. The pain, bitterness, insecurity, and failures chronicled in *Peanuts* appear to have originated from this period of Schulz’s life.

Although Schulz enjoyed sports, he also found refuge in solitary activities: reading, drawing, and watching movies. He bought comic books and Big Little Books, pored over the newspaper strips, and copied his favorites — *Buck Rogers*, the Walt Disney characters, *Popeye*, *Tim Tyler’s Luck*. He quickly became a connoisseur; his heroes were Milton Caniff, Roy Crane, Hal Foster, and Alex Raymond.

In his senior year in high school, his mother noticed an ad in a local newspaper for a correspondence school, Federal Schools (later called Art

Instruction Schools). Schulz passed the talent test, completed the course, and began trying, unsuccessfully, to sell gag cartoons to magazines. (His first published drawing was of his dog, Spike, and appeared in a 1937 *Ripley's Believe It or Not!* installment.)

After World War II had ended and Schulz was discharged from the army, he started submitting gag cartoons to the various magazines of the time; his first breakthrough, however, came when an editor at *Timeless Topix* hired him to letter adventure comics. Soon after that, he was hired by his alma mater, Art Instruction, to correct student lessons returned by mail.

Between 1948 and 1950, he succeeded in selling 17 cartoons to the *Saturday Evening Post* — as well as, to the local *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, a weekly comic feature called *Li'l Folks*. It ran in the women's section and paid \$10 a week. After writing and drawing the feature for two years, Schulz asked for a better location in the paper or for daily exposure, as well as a raise. When he was turned down on all three counts, he quit.

He started submitting strips to the newspaper syndicates. In the spring of 1950, he received a letter from the United Feature Syndicate, announcing its interest in his submission, *Li'l Folks*. Schulz boarded a train in June for New York City; more interested in doing a strip than a panel, he also brought along the first installments

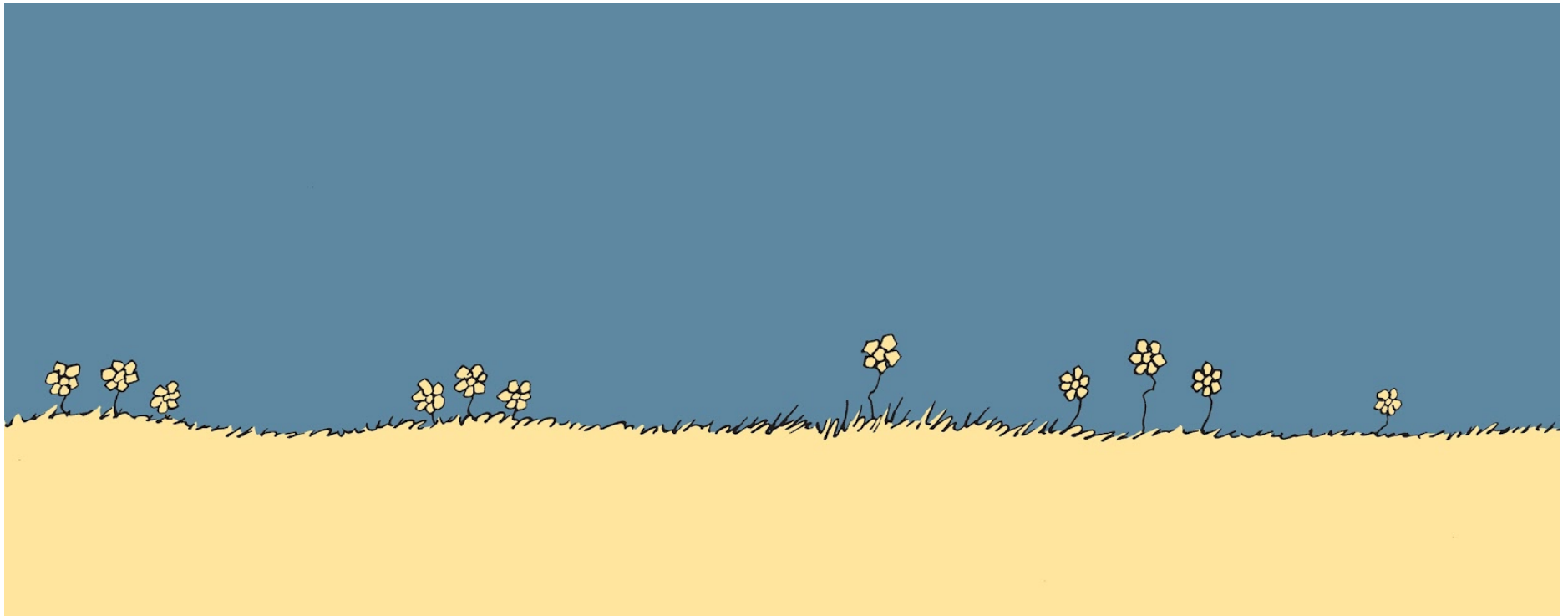
of what would become *Peanuts* — and that was what sold. (The title, which Schulz loathed to his dying day, was imposed by the syndicate). The first *Peanuts* daily appeared October 2, 1950; the first Sunday, January 6, 1952.

Prior to *Peanuts*, the province of the comics page had been that of gags, social and political observation, domestic comedy, soap opera, and various adventure genres. Although *Peanuts* changed, or evolved, during the 50 years Schulz wrote and drew it, it remained, as it began, an anomaly on the comics page — a comic strip about the interior crises of the cartoonist himself. After a painful divorce in 1973 from which he had not yet recovered, Schulz told a reporter, “Strangely, I’ve drawn better cartoons in the last six months — or as good as I’ve ever drawn. I don’t know how the human mind works.” Surely, it was this kind of humility in the face of profoundly irreducible human questions that makes *Peanuts* as universally moving as it is.

Diagnosed with cancer, Schulz retired from *Peanuts* at the end of 1999. He died on February 12, 2000, the day before his last strip was published (and two days before Valentine’s Day) — having completed 17,897 daily and Sunday strips, each and every one fully written, drawn, and lettered entirely by his own hand — an unmatched achievement in comics.

—Gary Groth







COMING IN *THE COMPLETE PEANUTS VOL. 26*

The final volume of *The Complete Peanuts* series has all of the bonus material and rarities any *Peanuts* fan could ever dream of — a cornucopia of Schulz images and stories, most of which haven't been reprinted since their first appearances in the '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s, and '90s. Vol. 26 includes *Peanuts* comic book stories by Schulz himself; advertising art for both commercial pitches like Ford cars and civic projects like the Clinton administration campaign warning of the dangers of chewing tobacco; *Peanuts* Christmas strips that ran in magazines; golf-, baseball-, and tennis-themed strips and panels — and much more.

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TPB 25

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